

MUSEUM NOTES

With volume 7 the BLUE JAY begins a new period of its history. The editor, Mr. Carmichael, located in the Regina Normal School Building, which also houses the Provincial Natural History Museum, is well situated for keeping in touch with changes and developments in all phases of natural history in Saskatchewan.

The museum which has suffered many reverses seems now well on the road to outstanding success as a part of the Department of Natural Resources. It has a staff of enthusiastic young men whose sole concern is to improve the museum and the cause of natural history generally. Mr. Fred Bard who has been in the museum since 1925 is doing an excellent job of rejuvenating and reactivating the museum now that he is director. New habitat groups, paintings, Indian work and a herbarium have been added but most important perhaps is just the rearranging and face-lifting which make all exhibits more pleasing and educational. The assistants Mr. Swanston and Mr. Lahrman are well qualified and will accomplish much in our museum.

If you have not been in the museum for more than a year be sure to visit it at your earliest opportunity. You will be astonished at the changes which have taken place. The museum is the natural meeting place of all people interested in wild life. You will always be welcomed in the museum by others of interests similar to your own. We need a fire-proof building in which the fine exhibits of our museum will be safe and where they may be seen at times convenient to the general public.

G. F. Ledingham.

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Mr. Bard informs us that the museum is anxious to obtain lists of nesting birds from good observers, in order to present the over-all picture of their distribution. For this purpose, sight records, in themselves, are of no value. "My experience", said Mr. Bard, "proves that our breeding-bird lists are diminishing in length and for this reason we require as much information as possible."

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Colonial nesting birds information would be very welcome at the present time. Will members please give information as to the size of the colonies, the land location and the names of the land owners. In this way some valuable information may be collected and organized about the habits of pelicans, cormorants, gulls, terns, herons, grebes, etc.

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Recently two fairly large bull snakes were sent to the provincial museum by the North Dakota Game and Fish League, Bismarck. They were found hibernating in a haystack and were shipped in an apple box lined with hay. Awakened by the warmth of the museum storeroom both of the snakes escaped through a hole in the box. One was found immediately twined around a stump in a group display. The other was not found until next day. It had crawled through three rooms and was found in a box of twigs on a shelf some eight feet from the floor. About 500 visitors to the museum viewed these snakes in an appropriately arranged display case, Saturday and Sunday, February 19 and 20.

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