



Blue Jay Chatter

LLOYD T. CARMICHAEL, Editor

EVEN to a greater extent than previous years, the Annual Meeting has given new meaning, new enthusiasm and new ambitions to the members of the Society who were fortunate enough to attend. Some of these have contributed to our pages for the first time, others have made constructive suggestions and a number have written to me expressing pleasure at their being able to be present and their determination to assist in making the "Blue Jay" a better nature publication with a wider circulation. It all adds up to the fact that we are becoming "Blue Jay" conscious and are experiencing a marked feeling of pride in the work that we are trying to do.

To Dr. Stuart Houston, our retiring president, we offer our sincere congratulations for the splendid job that he has done as a super-salesman and in furthering the interests of the Society in every way. The enthusiasm that he has displayed on every possible occasion, has meant more to the Society than we had ever hoped for. He has assured me that he will continue his efforts as he has in the past. For this we must all be very thankful.

Ralph Stueck, our new president, is known throughout the province as a photographer, wildlife lecturer and conservationist. We welcome him to the chair of president, knowing that his experiences as a naturalist, his keenness for out-of-door life and his fervent zeal as a protectionist will be reflected in all his work in connection with the "Blue Jay".

We are rather proud of this issue. It contains a number of articles, photos, and records of outstanding merit. The pictures of the Whooping Cranes have been proclaimed throughout this country and United States as one of the greatest wildlife photos of the year, and the story of the Whoopers and the Trumpeter Swans, by Mr. Bard, are a revelation of patience, enthusiasm and a love of nature.

We learn from Doug Gilroy also the secret of how to take a close-up photo of a bird on the nest, and from the remarkable records of J. Murray and Mrs. Speirs we are forceably reminded of how much there is about us to see and admire if we have but the ability to see and admire. They have made a similar record across the provinces from coast to coast.

Although we have increased the number of pages in this issue from 28 to 32, we regret very much having to postpone the publication of many items of interest. Besides these I have not been able to include any of the contributions received after the deadline, November 20. Please get your articles in on time, preferably several weeks before. The next deadline is March 1, but there seems no reason why many winter observations cannot just as well be submitted in January or early February.

Now, there is one very important matter for me to discuss. I have relinquished the position of Secretary-Treasurer of the Society and Dr. George F. Ledingham has been elected to do this work. I would like, however, to have one more fling at our finances. The subscriptions of most of our members have now expired, and your fee for next year is due. This is one reminder, and the enclosed blue slip is another. Please help our new secretary as well as the whole Society by paying up at once. Try to get it away in January for sure. We are now just on the brink of financial success, but the real test will come during the next month. We are crossing our fingers, and hoping that we can retain the members we have. If our publication and efforts have been worthwhile, indicate your approval by renewing your subscription at once. No present member will receive the spring issue who has not paid his 1954 subscription in advance. **WE WILL HAVE NO MEMBERS IN ARREARS. A MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL.**