

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

RALPH P. STUECK



Ralph Stueck, Kerry Farm, Abernethy, Sask.

In this world of ours Nature has long been the most interesting pastime and pleasure of mankind. It is on this foundation that our Saskatchewan Natural History Society exists and thrives. Throughout the past year, under the direction of our Past President, Dr. Stuart Houston, of Yorkton, and his executive, our Society and "The Blue Jay" have made great progress, both in membership and in quality of material.

In order to keep up the good standard of the past I sincerely ask your help and co-operation in building "The Blue Jay" into the most interesting prairie magazine of its kind.

Saskatchewan is truly the home of many birds that migrate south annually for a change in climate and an assurance of food, but they always return to their prairie homes to build their nests and raise their young. How many of us stop to think that somewhere in Northern Saskatchewan is the home of the almost extinct Whooping Crane! With your help as members of our Society and the help of the Provincial Museum, under the direction of Mr. Fred Bard, let us strive to make 1954 the Whooping Crane Year and adopt as our motto "Protect the Whooper."

Recently "our ship came in"—when Mr. Bard and Mr. Larhman obtained a number of movie and still pictures of three beautiful Whooping Cranes that rested temporarily at Herbert, Sask., on their migration flight south. How fortunate that a school boy, keen in his observation, was instrumental in first telling his father, and that his father, concerned as to the fate of these majestic birds, phoned Mr. Bard as to their whereabouts!

Mr. Bard has new ideas that we people of Saskatchewan must carry out through our "Blue Jay" in order that these birds may be protected. Might it also be possible to give a medal or some like recognition to the school boy or girl who first reports the presence in their district of a Whooping Crane?

Your President and officers of 1954 wish you and yours a Merry Christmas, and may the coming year bring you untold pleasures and happiness in this strange world of ours.