

WHAT IS NATURE !

By Alan Devoe

(Submitted by Marie H. Millers)

NOWADAYS, it is curious that the more concerned men become with science, the less notice they pay to nature. We have got to the strange state where, in our preoccupation with electrons, we think that the heart of nature is to be perceived only through a laboratory lens.

We do not walk now in wooded places, and mark the look of birch thickets and listen to the calling of birds, and seek knowledge in that way. It seems not to occur to us that the intimations to be drawn from some new chemical formula are no nearer to the core of reality than those intimations which can come to a man when he lays his hand upon

the rough bark of a pine, or squints up at the winter sky to see a solitary hawk hovering there, or listens at night to the cry of foxes in a quiet countryside.

There is an old saying about not being able to see the forest for the trees. Today, we can scarcely see nature for the science. True, nature is a matter of chemical fusings and mathematical formulas; but nature is also the singing of phoebes in country meadows in the spring; and the leap of catfish in rush-ringed ponds, and an exultation and a miracle.

And if we would not lose all poetry from our hearts and all intuitiveness from our minds, we would do well, I think, to remember these things.

The Message of Conservation

C. Stuart Francis

AFTER a number of wet years in Saskatchewan we can expect to have a change any time, and perhaps this spring and summer may be as dry as the last few years have been wet. If such is the case, it is the duty of every citizen of this province to be careful with fire; to be sure every match or cigarette is dead out after use; to see that every camp-fire and every land-clearing fire are dead out also, before it is forgotten, or these same fires may be remembered in a very unpleasant and expensive manner. Also it is the duty of every official charged with authority, to see that careless campers and careless settlers are checked up and if found to be unco-operative, to receive the treatment they deserve. The person who does not consider the rights of others cannot expect to get undeserved consideration himself. As conditions exist in our province today, we definitely cannot afford to waste any more of our rich natural resources, and certainly not for the temporary monetary gain of any individual, or group of individuals, who may consider a few dollars gained today ahead of the future well-being of our country.

It is the duty of every BLUE JAY subscriber to endeavour to pass on the message of conservation to everyone he or she comes in contact with, and especially our children. They are the material we can mould more easily for the future good or detriment of our country, according to the direction of our efforts.

Timely Questions and Pertinent Answers

By Ducks Unlimited

Why does wildlife need protection? Chiefly because natural habitat continues to shrink relentlessly in the face of ever-expanding civilization. . . . Because of an equally deadly increase in hunting pressure as human populations expand. . . . And because these hazards, each of comparatively recent origin, are additional dangers to the age-old one of unpredictable weather. Faced by this terrible trio and receiving no protection, many wildlife species soon would be tottering on the brink of extinction.

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What should we know about wildlife? Experience indicates that we cannot know too much about the subject. The more we find out by re-