



—PHOTO BY DOUG GILROY

## LONG-EARED OWL

*Doug Gilroy, Regina*

In this section of the country, five different species of owls have been found nesting. One of my favourites and I believe one of the most beneficial and most attractive is the Long-eared Owl. Many wooded coulees harbour a nest of these owls. I once found five nests in the course of one mile along the creek.

## MIGHTY WINGS

*Doug Gilroy*

ONE morning, early in April the man on the radio announced that the wind velocity was thirty-five miles an hour. Two minutes later I stepped outside in time to see a Great Blue Heron go flying over the house. He was sailing with the wind and his great wings were flopping up and down in seemingly helpless fashion. "That boy," thought I, "will be blown right back to Kentucky if his wings aren't broken off in the meantime."

Then as he passed over a certain part of the creek which is quite often frequented by herons, he set his wings and to my surprise circled right around into the wind, then side-slipped down to the creeks just as easy as you please.

What power that bird must have in its muscles! Truly a master of the air!

## BIRD WATCHING

*Helen and Herbert Partridge,  
Gull Lake.*

APRIL and May have been ideal for bird watching due to the earliness of the spring season and the almost uninterrupted succession of warm sunny days. We take great pleasure each spring in visiting the one spot in our district in which we have found Yellow Headed Blackbirds. We would like to know if other watchers see these in any great numbers.

Today (May 18th) we saw six Avocets, a bird we had not been familiar with before this year. This most spectacular water bird is easily identified by his orange head and black and white wings. We came within fifteen yards of them and watched them feeding.

Dr. Arthur A. Allen's book "Stalking Birds with Color Camera" has added to our reading and watching pleasure. We highly recommend it to "Blue Jay" readers.