



# Blue Jay Chatter



Lloyd T. Carmichael, Editor



Spring is always a season of rejoicing, particularly among those who are interested in nature. The grass and the trees once more bedeck the landscape in fresh and numerous shades of green; the birds arrive from the south and fill the morning air with song; insects and other animals, large and small, appear from hibernation or seclusion as if by magic; the flowering plants awake from their long winter's sleep, and burst into fragrant bloom.



Such is the annual recurrence of vibrant life, springing from a cold and dormant world, reminding us that resurrection, one of the most common gifts of natural phenomena, is an exhilarating and established fact.

The photographs on this page, the Crocus by Cliff Shaw; the Robin by Doug Gilroy; the Spring Beauty by Hugh M. Halliday, and the Moss Phlox by myself, are among the first harbingers of spring, that never fail to gladden the hearts of boys and girls, men and women everywhere. But why include the Spring Beauty? Is its presence here a mere reminiscent token for those of us who spent our younger days in the East—down by the sea? Not so—the Spring Beauty is a Saskatchewan flower of the Cypress Hills. Mr. Budd tells us all about it, on page 23.

Not only do we rejoice, this spring, because of the fascinating gifts which Nature has to bestow, but in the knowledge that the "Blue Jay" seems to be on the brink of a success, only dreamed about a few short years ago. Over three hundred nature enthusiasts have joined with us since the beginning of the year, and our total circulation will reach a new high of eleven hundred or more, before this issue is off the press.

The enthusiasm of our president, Dr. Stuart Houston, has increased by leaps and bounds. Wherever he is—whatever he is doing—he continues to solicit support for the Natural History Society. Not only has he signed up 47 new members as well as many renewals, but, assisted by our business manager, Cliff Shaw, he has sent out hundreds of letters to prospective members, the results of which show in the bundle of mail which daily reaches the editor's desk.

This unbounded enthusiasm is shared by our vice-president, Jack Shaver, of Yorkton, who has established a record which will be difficult to equal. He has solicited and obtained 54 new members since the beginning of the year.

Space forbids my enumerating the similar excellent missionary work done on our behalf by members throughout the province. On the back inside cover are listed the patrons for the year, who in generous cash donations and gifts subscriptions have increased our bank account by a hundred dollars.

Besides these, I would like to mention in particular the names of: Dr. George Ledingham of Regina; G. B. Gollop of Saskatoon; Mrs. O. L. Wolters of Tolland, Alberta; J. V. Harper of Saskatoon; H. L. Paine of Moose Jaw; Mrs. Arthur Ward of Swift Current; Doug Gilroy of Regina; Cliff Shaw of Yorkton; May Shaw of Rocanville; Frank Baines of Saltcoats; Mrs. Harry Bray of McLean and T. H. Mack of Lumsden. To these men and women must be given the credit for swelling our membership to such proportions, the the future welfare of the "Blue Jay" now seems assured.