

## CANADA JAY

*By Doug Gilroy, Regina*



For two months this winter we had, as our guest, a Canada Jay. Although the odd Canada Jay has been reported on occasion from the Regina area, he is a comparatively rare visitor. In fact this was the first that I have seen since back in the thirties.

I first sighted him down at the creek, November 17, and again the following day. On December 3, we hung up lumps of suet in the trees around the yard hoping to attract some Chickadees or Woodpeckers. We had no sooner finished when the Jay suddenly appeared out of nowhere. All that afternoon he fed from it almost steadily—never leaving it any longer than five minutes at a time.

Early next morning he was back and fed continually all day. He just ate and ate. Where he put it all I'll never know. This gorging lasted for three days. After that he still ate greedily but would work it off with flights down to the creek and back.

The following week he was either getting tired of his fatty diet or was finally filled up, as he would only pay short visits to the farm two or three times a day.

One thing that puzzled me was that whenever I went for a hike along the creek, no matter in what direction I went, I always ran into Mr. Jay—sometimes at quite a distance from home. At times I almost believed that there were more than one Jay in the neighborhood.

After the first of January his visits to our yard became less and less. His last visit was January 17. Where he is now, I do not know, but as they are early nesters he has doubtless migrated back to his northern home.

I obtained some very fine kodochromes of him for souvenirs and shall always remember him as an old friend who did much to make a pleasant winter just that much more pleasant.