



—Photo by F. W. Ke

Blue Jay Chatter

With this issue, the **Blue Jay** completes its fifteenth volume. At our annual meeting recently, we took stock once more of our position and realized that both the Saskatchewan Natural History Society and the **Blue Jay** have grown considerably. There are now nearly 3,000 members subscribing to the magazine, and the 1957 **Blue Jay** has for the first time published a total of 204 pages.

No one is in a better position than the editor to know how generous members have given of their time and knowledge in contributing to the **Blue Jay**. On behalf of the society, I should like to thank these faithful contributors for their pictures and observations. Naturally, as the magazine grows larger we need more and more contributions of this kind.

In other ways as well, members may be of real help to the secretary. We can all gain new members and introduce the **Blue Jay** into districts where it is not known. We can all help young people to a better understanding and appreciation of nature by giving leadership in hikes and club activities. We can think and plan and work for the conservation of our natural resources.

In its programme of conservation education, the Saskatchewan Natural History Society has been immensely encouraged by the grant of \$1,100 made to the Society by the Department of Natural Resources. This grant has allowed us to increase the size and quality of the **Blue Jay**. It will allow us to carry out other projects that the society has never had funds for. For example, plans are now being made for the publication of a book on the Mammals of Saskatchewan by Harvey Beck, which we hope to be able to announce in the March issue.

Receipt of this grant encourages us to even greater effort. We must increase the value of our magazine and the number of subscribers. Wonderful work has been done this year, and our membership has gone up by more than 600. Can we gain another 600 members in 1958? If every member makes a personal effort, I am sure that this goal can be reached.

You can help now by giving the magazine as a Christmas present. The December number will be sent to announce the gift, and four issues will follow in 1958 — all for one dollar.

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL