

Blue Jay Chatter

In early September the American Ornithologists' Union held its seventy-third annual meeting in Denver and Boulder, Colorado. Saskatchewan was represented by Dr. S. Houston, who gave a paper, Mrs. Houston, Dr. R. W. Nero, J. B. Gollop, and your editor. After three days of interesting papers the whole group went on a field trip to the top of Mount Evans. Dr. W. A. Weber, Botanist of the University of Colorado, gave us personal guidance and showed us the rare alpine flora as well as the birds of the tundra. It was truly a wonderful day. The meetings were pleasant and worthwhile but what we valued most were the new friendships and associations formed. Hardly a week later one of our new acquaintances telephoned me on his way to the Qu'Appelle Valley, but I'll let Mr. Kent tell you the story himself. See page 120.

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The 1956 annual meeting of the Saskatchewan Natural History Society was held in the Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History during the evening of October 26 and all day Saturday, October 27. Snow fell heavily during the day and reduced our registration, but many people came from widely scattered points at considerable personal expense. One enthusiast came from Manitoba. The reports of the meeting and the names of those registered are given on pages 134-136.

The annual meeting is a time for looking back over the past year and thinking of the future. With this in mind I would like to restate a few of the points mentioned in the editor's report. Thanks to the help and co-operation and contributions of many people, my task has been a pleasant one indeed. May I first of all express my appreciation to these people who have made the BLUE JAY a success in 1956. I have not been able to print all of the items which have come in nor have I, though I hate to admit it, even been able to reply to all of the letters. In spite of this, may I ask you to please send anything which you think might be of interest to members of our society. Remember the BLUE JAY is printed to publish the contributions of the members. Items sent in need not be long but all reports should be accurate and complete. To give some guidance to contributors we are reprinting the article of Mr. H. H. Axtell on page 122.

The discussions at the annual meeting this year gave ample proof of the need for certain changes in our society to keep up with the times and to give better value to our growing membership. The constitution and the membership fee remain the same for 1957 but committees have been appointed and instructed to bring in recommendations regarding possible changes next year. Not only are costs rising so that it is difficult to make ends meet with our one dollar fee, but because our magazine is becoming better known and goes far beyond the boundaries of Saskatchewan, we should like to improve the size and quality of the BLUE JAY. You can help by gaining new members for the society, by supporting the society's projects, or by giving the BLUE JAY as a Christmas Gift. With this issue we are running a trial advertisement, page 128, on a commission basis and we urge you to buy some of these booklets for Christmas or for your local school.

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL OUR READERS