

# BLUE JAY CHATTER

This summer I had the good fortune to meet several people especially interested in natural history. Since I met them mostly because of my position as editor of the **Blue Jay**, I should like to introduce these new acquaintances to you.

First there was Mr. Chapman, former editor of the excellent little magazine **South Dakota Bird Notes**. Mr. Chapman came to our Summer Meeting from Sioux Falls, South Dakota. I had a pleasant hour of birding along Pine Avenue on June 15 with him and his wife. It was stimulating, too, to have the encouragement and advice of an experienced editor. He made us feel proud of our founder, Mrs. I. M. Priestly, and of our magazine, when he told us at our meeting that he was introduced to the **Blue Jay** in 1941 when Dr. A. L. Rand suggested that the proposed South Dakota magazine be patterned after our publication.

Then there was Mrs. L. Stockelback of Verona, New Jersey, who was revisiting Canada this year to paint the floral emblems. Mrs. Stockelback is also interested in birds and has written a book **Birds of Shakespeare** which contains illustrations of the sixty birds mentioned by Shakespeare.

Dr. Peter Millman of the National Research Council was in Regina discussing the part to be played in the International Geophysical Year by Regina's ambitious group of amateur astronomers.

Dr. L. Murray and I spent one morning birding with him and visited Doug Gilroy's farm, where we watched the Burrowing Owl from Doug's blind and saw the Lark Sparrow in his pasture.

While in Calgary recently I visited Dr. W. C. McCalla and spent two wonderful hours looking at flower specimens and photographs. It was a rare pleasure to meet the man who collected across Canada in 1890. One willow **Salix macalliana** which was named for Dr. McCalla will now appear even more attractive to me. We have a lovely illustration of it and excellent photography in his picture of the Evening Star on page 131.

There were a lot of people at our Cypress Hills Summer Meeting and I should have liked to visit with all of them. Many came long distances like the four school children from Paradise Hill who were brought by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Prince. After meeting them, the thought came to us that the programme of our summer meetings should include special features for young people, perhaps even a weekend camp for them at Emma Lake next June.

Among the Alberta people present, we should like to mention Kathleen Hodges who brought us a copy of the first annual Alberta Bird Report (1951) upon which the Edmonton and Calgary bird clubs are to be commended. We have learned since the meeting that Miss Hodges has some beautiful kodachromes, which we hope to see at some future gathering.

We are looking forward to reading an account of some birding done at the Cypress Hills at our summer meeting, in the September-October issue of **Canadian Nature**. Dr. H. Barnett, Toronto, came from a medical convention in Saskatoon and used his binoculars and camera to such good effect that he has been asked by **Canadian Nature** to tell about his experiences.

Now the summer is nearly over, but I'm looking forward to making some more acquaintance. Mr. W. W. Mair, Chief of the Canadian Wildlife Service, is to be the guest speaker at the Annual Meeting. I know that you, too, are looking forward to meeting him on October 16.