

Blue Jay Chatter

I know that I speak for all the **Blue Jay** readers when I say how sorry we were to have Mr. L. T. Carmichael resign as editor. He built our little bulletin into an attractive and worthwhile magazine, and we looked forward to every issue. Three cheers and a million thanks to Lloyd for his seven years as editor and for the 28 fine issues which were published during those years.

In taking over from Mr. Carmichael, I am counting on the continued co-operation of all those contributors who have helped to make the **Blue Jay** such a happy medium for the exchange of opinions and observations among amateur naturalists. I am looking forward particularly to the notes and letters which will come to the editor's desk. Although it will not be possible to print all the material received, and although there will be, I hope, much more correspondence than I can promise to answer, I shall depend upon your letters to keep me in direct contact with the readers of the **Blue Jay**. Most of all, I want you to feel that the **Blue Jay** is **your** magazine.

With our readers alert and ready to report their observations, we shall often learn about something rare or new in Saskatchewan or perhaps about something which has previously remained unnoticed and unrecorded. I hope that when questions are asked in the **Blue Jay** you will do everything you can to send in information or to coax others who have the information to send it in. In this issue, for example, Dr. Stuart Houston asks whether any readers know of the occurrence of the rare Pinnated Grouse in Saskatchewan. If you can help answer this question, you will be doing a service not only to the Wisconsin Conservation Department which is carrying on the survey, but to all naturalists in our province who are interested in this bird. We think that collecting information of this kind is one of the important functions of the **Blue Jay**.

Some of our keenest observers may well be the boys and girls in the schools of Saskatchewan. A part of this magazine will continue to be devoted to their interests and activities. We are again announcing the story contest for young people — the best story sent in during each quarter will be printed and one of the Field Guides given as a prize to the author.

We are also pleased to be able to continue the **Spade and Screen** pages under the capable direction of Mr. Fred Robinson. I should like to see more contributions of archeological interest coming to Mr. Robinson, to whom I am personally grateful for editing this interesting section of the **Blue Jay**.

An important part of each **Blue Jay** will be the Museum Section. Here articles by members of the Museum staff will be included and accessions acknowledged. Since the Museum staff is still extremely busy preparing habitat cases and exhibits in the new museum building, we are particularly fortunate to have three good items in this issue by Dr. R. W. Nero, the assistant director.

As the official organ of the Saskatchewan Natural History Society, the **Blue Jay** must take a strong stand for conservation. In a democracy, we cannot expect to have the problems of conservation and wildlife management solved intelligently without an informed public, and I therefore hope that the **Blue Jay** will be able to play a really effective role in conservation education. In this issue the controversial question of the protection of hawks and owls is raised, and we have printed articles that reflect current opinions on predator control. Perhaps Saskatchewan is somewhat behind in its thinking on this subject, and we should help to advance more recent concepts. In any case, these problems are extremely important to all of us who are anxious to play our part in preserving what Durward Allen calls "our wildlife legacy"