

care of material found in order to get the most and best information from the Scientist who will later visit and work on the discovery. Facts learned from one find will help in locating and appraising many more finds. Co-operation between, and appreciation of each others' interest will lead to greater knowledge.

In the next issue a short article on "Midden Points" by A. J. Hudson, Mortlach, will be featured. Also some information from Ed Robinson, Wawanesa, Manitoba; about his Indian Relic discoveries.

EDITOR'S NOTE

The "Spade and Screen" will now become a regular feature of the "Blue Jay." Two pages will be devoted to the material, which will be edited by Mr. Robinson.

Please send all contributions for these pages to:

Fred S. Robinson,
2100 York St., Regina.

The Spring Dispersion of the Boatman

By RONALD HOOPER, Somme, Sask.

It had never occurred to me before how the interesting little bug that is called the Boatman becomes so well distributed from its wintering quarters to every little slough, puddle and ditch until I took a walk along Snipe Lake on April 16. Along the west shore there were thousands of Boatmen in the water, so I stopped to watch them. To my surprise they were climbing out of the water onto the rocks, where they would sit for a moment to dry off. Then they would spread their wings and make a leap towards the east. If a gust of the west wind caught them, away they would go, high up in the air, headed for their new spring quarters. If they didn't catch a gust of wind they would go about a foot, and fall back into the water.

It is strange that they should need the wind so much in the spring, because they have no trouble flying

about lamps and light-bulbs in the summertime. Perhaps it is for a more efficient dispersal.

The Backswimmer is another interesting water-bug. These insects are diverse from most other water-life in that they are light coloured above and dark coloured beneath. Ducks, snipes, fish, boatmen, diving beetles and many other water creatures are light coloured beneath, so they will match the sky, and dark coloured above to match the mud and water. In order for the Backswimmer to match his surroundings, he swims upside-down. He might be called the nuthatch of the water.

A few Backswimmers were also climbing up the rocks. Before they attempted a take-off, they would scrape the water from their forewings with their hind legs. None of the Backswimmers, that I watched, succeeded in making a take-off. This is probably because they are bigger than the Boatmen and therefore need a stronger wind to help them.

Plan to Attend —

**The Saskatchewan
Natural History Society
SUMMER MEETING**

**At Fort Qu'Appelle —
June 18 and 19**

For details see inside of
back cover.

DID YOU KNOW . . .

THAT a 55 page booklet, entitled "Echoes of the Qu'Appelle Lakes District" has been recently written and published by T. Petty, of Indian Head. It is a valuable guide to historic sites, old trails and pioneers of the area. Copies may be obtained for one dollar per copy from Mr. Petty.