

which is the most valuable half of the book insofar as Saskatchewan readers would be concerned, although the latter half of the book, dealing with the birds themselves, is no less interesting. Because we do have gulls, the chapter on them is particularly interesting, especially the notes on the large gulls of the genus *Larus*, which is represented here. Unless we have given the matter some study, we do not generally realize that these gulls in their nesting colonies, or "gulleries", according to our standards, exhibit the most disgusting behaviour, which is of course the most natural behaviour according to the gulls' standards. Robbery, murder and cannibalism, even within the limits of the family, seem to be the dominant controlling factor of their numbers. Natural behaviour it may be, but the picture given by the authors of a parent gull swallowing one of its own young, and then later regurgitating it for a meal for its brother or sister is something less than charming. Interesting as they may be, it will be difficult for me to learn to love a *Larus* gull. I would be interested to learn if the same behaviour is characteristic of *Larus* gulls on inland nesting sites.

There are a number of thought-provoking passages, e.g. "From the study of the ecology of animals we are learning that their numbers are controlled primarily by the amount of food they can get, and only secondarily by their parasites and predators; and parasites are probably more important than predators. But there are exceptions to this; and the chief one is when the predator is man (another is when new predators are introduced through his agency)."

The reader of "Sea-Birds" cannot fail to gain a better understanding of birds as a whole (not to mention the sea-birds themselves, and the basin of the North Atlantic) and the delicately balanced, intricately interlocked pageant of life on earth in which everything, including birds and ourselves, daily plays a part.

If at all possible, attend the Society's Annual Meeting in the new Museum.

See inside of back cover.

Museum Assistant

Dr. Robert W. Nero of Madison, Wisconsin, has been appointed assistant director of Saskatchewan's new museum of natural history at Regina.

Dr. Nero was curator of the zoology department museum, University of Wisconsin at Madison from 1949 to 1955. He studied at that institution, obtaining his Ph.D. degree in zoology there this year, and has also done professional research in ornithology and archaeology. During the last war he served with the American armed forces in the Pacific.

In addition to assisting the director with the administration of the museum, Dr. Nero will be directly responsible for supervising and directing the museum's education and extension program. He will also organize field activities for the collection of specimens for displays, supervise preparation of these exhibits and help with designing displays.

Dr. Nero is 33 years of age, is married and has three children.

Sight Record of Black Necked Stilt

By PETER McLELLAN, Arcola

"Having lived on the prairie since 1888, I seldom now see a new bird, but on May 20th I saw three Black-necked Stilts. They came flying up a creek; one lit on a willow fence post beside me and the other two waded fifty feet away.

The upper surface of their wings was more of a dark slate color than the black back, and the white underparts became cream colored on the lower abdomen, but the pink legs were even pinker than most illustrations.

All my life I have been telling the kids that a long-legged wader on a fence picket can be nothing but an upland plover, now I shall have to say that if it has pink legs it is a stilt."

(Note: This beautiful species once bred as far north as New Jersey and
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