

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. Róbert 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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Canadian Map and Place Names

NATURALISTS WILL BE HONOURED

Our readers will be interested in the following letter from A. I. Bereskin, Controller of Surveys, Regina. It would be a splendid tribute should one or more of Saskatchewan's outstanding naturalists or conversationists be honoured in this manner.

Will those who wish to make nominations please submit the names, together with reasons for the choice, to the editor. All such nominations will be presented at the Annual Meeting for consideration.

Dear Mr. Carmichael:

You are probably aware of the practice in this province of naming northern Saskatchewan lakes, islands, bays and rivers after eminent pioneers and prominent citizens so that the official map and place names of the province may perpetuate the names of those who helped lay the foundations to our present development.

On reading your interesting publication, "The Blue Jay" it occurred to me that your readers may wish to nominate some pioneer who was eminent in the work of conservation or who was prominent in the work of introducing shrubs, fruit trees to Saskatchewan or in the field of horticulture in the province.

On discussion with the Honourable J. H. Brockelbank, Minister of Natural Resources, he advised that nominations from your Society would be welcomed.

You may wish, therefore, to request nominations from your readers and select three of the most prominent in the work of conserving wild life and other resources or adapting trees, shrubs and flowers to local conditions. It is suggested that the individuals nominated whether living or not, be those whose work has been almost exclusively in the province.

A biographical sketch of the individual, outlining his contribution to the province would also be appreciated so that the necessary recommendation may be made to the Canadian Board on Geographical Names for adoption of the name as a Canadian map and place name and inclusion on future maps of the province.

Yours truly,

A. I. BERESKIN, Controller of Surveys

BLACK NECKED STILT

(Continued from Page 21)

Nebraska, but its numbers were greatly decimated by shooting, and it has never regained its former range. Its breeding range now is chiefly from Peru and Venezuela to Florida, Louisiana and California. However, it is listed as an irregular

spring straggler in the middle western states, and has been previously reported from North Dakota.

It is too bad that Mr. McLellan was unable to obtain photographs, as unsubstantiated sight records are not sufficient to place a new species on the provincial list. — C.S.H.)