

## MUSEUM NOTES

### In Memoriam of Mr. Fred Bradshaw

By FRED BARD

*Director, Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History, Regina*

With the passing of Fred Bradshaw on July 27th, the Museum has lost a very dear friend. I never met a man more devoted to his work than was our friend "Brad." He spoke of coming to this country as a "green Englishman." He was one of the Barr Colonists, who faced many obstacles in settling a new land. The high cost of equipment, adverse weather and privation caused many to give up and try something else. I believe he was a Court stenographer for a time. Yearly reports of the Department of Agriculture refer to the various responsibilities this young man had in that Department and of his interest in natural history in association with Prof. T. N. Willing. Reports carry the account of lectures given on the "Better Farming Train."

Mr. Bradshaw was deeply interested in the wildlife of Saskatchewan, and was one of its first conservationists. He photographed, studied and lectured about the natural history of the Province. I accompanied him on many occasions. His interest took him to the rural schools where he met the children and would tell them of the adventures to be had in the realm of natural history.

In 1906 an exhibit of fur-bearing game animals and game birds was sent to a fair in Halifax to illustrate the wealth of wildlife in the west. From time to time this collection was added to. Quite a collection was on hand when the cyclone of 1912 struck, destroying most of the specimens. Mr. Bradshaw went east and talked with Museum people before he selected Mr. Mitchell as the man most capable of rebuilding these specimens so that a museum could be established. Mr. Mitchell commenced his duties in 1913.

Reliable observers were established across the Province as a result of Mr. Bradshaw's encouragement, and these contacts submitted material which was of great value to the Game Branch in its early management program. Several of these reliable observers assisted in compiling material for the Saskatchewan check list of birds. The check list was

published by Mitchell in the "Canadian Field-Naturalist," 1924.

Mr. Bradshaw became the Museum's first Director in 1928 — it owes its existence to his planning. His dream of a building just for the Museum was finally realized when he was invited to the official opening of our new building on May 16th, 1955. At the close of the ceremonies Brad's eyes were filled with tears as he said, "I thought I would never live to see the day when a building would be provided." Mr. Bradshaw retired from the Museum in 1935.

I had the opportunity of seeing Brad in Vancouver when the 21st Federal-Provincial Wildlife Conference was held on June 4th-9th, 1956. He was at the meeting when "Whooping Crane Mortality and Management" was being discussed. Mr. John H. Lynch, Flyway Biologist, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, presented an exceptionally fine paper containing a proposal to manage the Whooping Crane. Following the unanimous approval of the conference for a management program, Mr. Bradshaw and I had tea together and talked over the happy days of "birding" in Saskatchewan. Brad said, "There is no place like Saskatchewan for birdlife and I shall never forget my happy experiences on the prairies." During this conversation I asked him to write us an article on his discovery of the first Whooping Crane nest found in Saskatchewan. You will find this interesting article on the following pages.

I often think of the trials and tribulations during the 30's when it was so very difficult to keep the Museum alive and of the hundreds of experiences we had together in our desire to build a Museum of Natural History.

One cannot help but realize with the passing of friends like Brad that we never quite recover from these losses, and on each occasion die a little ourselves.

Our sympathy goes out to Mr. Bradshaw's wife, Carol, who resides in Vancouver; and to his daughter, Mrs. McMath of Regina.





Mr. and Mrs. Fred Bradshaw are shown at the extreme right in this photo taken at the opening of the new Museum of Natural History on May 16, 1955. Mr. and Mrs. Fred Bard are being presented to the Governor General, Mr. Massey by the Hon. Mr. Brockelbank.

## The Home of the Whooping Crane

By FRED BRADSHAW

To visit the home of the finest, tallest, and beyond question the most majestic bird of the American continent is a privilege that has fallen to the lot of few living persons. So far as I am aware, at this writing, I am the only living person who has had the good fortune to enjoy this most unusual experience. By a stroke of good fortune it was my pleasure to find, in 1922, the summer home of the Whooping Crane, *Grus americana*.

For many years, as Game Commissioner for the Province of Saskatchewan, I was charged with the administration of the Game Act.

While this work does not lend itself to an intensive study of birds and mammals, nevertheless, one who occupies such a position is compelled as a matter of course, to take more than a passing interest in wildlife conditions generally if he desires to deal intelligently with the various problems that from time to time confront him. It was in this way that I first became interested in the Whooping Crane; but it was not until January, 1922, upon learning that Dr. T. Gilbert Pearson, President of the National Association of Audubon Societies, Washington, D.C., had reported the finding of the winter