

## The Blue Jay Bookshelf

### TRAVELS and TRADITIONS OF WATERFOWL

By H. Albert Hochbaum

The University of Minnesota Press, Minn., 1955  
301 pp. 26 figs. 2 tables and numerous  
pen and ink sketches by the author, \$5.00

Reviewed by Richard W. Fyfe,  
Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History

Mr. A. Hochbaum, director of the Delta Waterfowl Research Station, has written a stimulating book on bird behaviour patterns for the layman and scientist alike. Many of the observations are directly related to the author's personal experience in Delta and the reader readily becomes a part of these experiences. The book is divided into three parts dealing with waterfowl travel, migration and traditions.

Initially Mr. Hochbaum deals with local movements about the marsh and countryside with particular attention to flight behaviour and the factors influencing this behavior. Included are such things as flight relationships and orientation to the wind, shore patterns, and landmarks. Flight trends and behavior about the marsh and local areas are of particular interest because they take the naturalist and sportsman into the marsh, showing relationships and giving meaning to observations familiar to many.

The mysteries of migration are dealt with very convincingly. Hochbaum first eliminates many of the myths of migration in order to approach the problem with a scientific mind. The author's observations are very sound, summarizing and utilizing most of the literature on waterfowl migration. He points out the significance of weather and homing tendencies, and uses as illustration experiments of exceptional interest. Also he shows the value of all scientific research to our knowledge and the practical application of research. Above all, the importance of accurate observation and records is well illustrated.

Perhaps the author has over generalized specific studies on waterfowl, as the actions of one species are not always characteristic of another. However, such generalization

should stimulate further inquiry and study by both the scientist and the layman.

TRAVELS AND TRADITIONS OF WATERFOWL, because of its general interest and excellent text illustrations, is a "must" to all who have watched and questioned bird migration—naturalists, sportsmen and scientists.

### WILD PLANTS OF THE CANADIAN PRAIRIES

Watch for Arch C. Budd's revised flora of the Canadian prairies which is to be published soon. The title will be "**Wild Plants of the Canadian Prairies**," Publication No. 983, price \$1.50, post free from the Information Service, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa.

### BIRDS OF THE CYPRESS HILLS AND FLOTTEN LAKE REGIONS SASKATCHEWAN

By W. Earl Godfrey

Bulletin No. 120, National Museum of Canada  
Ottawa, 1950. 96 pp. 25 cents.

Anyone planning to attend the summer meeting of the Saskatchewan Natural Society in June should send for a copy of this bulletin. In addition to its systematic list of birds the bulletin has a useful introduction to the physical features, vegetation and bird habitats of the Cypress Hills region where the meeting will be held. The two lists of birds, for the Cypress Hills and the Flotten Lake regions, result from studies made by a National Museum field party in the summer of 1948. Previous records for the two areas have been added to those of the Museum party.

### A BOTANICAL SURVEY OF THE CYPRESS HILLS

By August J. Breitung

(*Can. Field-Naturalist*, Vol. 68, April-June, 1954)

Is recommended as a companion study to the above bulletin for those interested in the flora of the Cypress Hills. This article was reviewed by L. T. Carmichael in the *BLUE JAY*, Vol. XIII, Jan.-Feb.-Mar., 1955. Prints available from the Canadian Field-Naturalist, Ottawa.