



Stuart Francis at Spruce Dale Farm

an ordinary farmer" aware of the dangers of poisoning wildlife and upsetting the balance of nature by the use of sprays and baits such as 1080.

One of the letters, from **Kathleen O'Drowski** of PRINCE GEORGE, B.C., was accompanied by an account of a visit paid to Spruce Dale Farm, a farm of real interest to **Blue Jay** readers because this is C. Stuart Francis' tree farm at Torch River. Kathleen visited her uncle's farm for a month in May after an absence of three years. From the moment she drove up the familiar lane over which the spruce trees clasped hands to form an arch, Kathleen began to enjoy again the delights of the farm in spring. She watched the trees come into leaf, went for evening walks in the pasture and spied a lone coyote coming out of the willows, noted the return of spring birds and especially the barn swallow (which she does not see in Prince George).

The Saskatchewan Natural History Society

Annual Meeting, October 16-17, 1959

By **Elizabeth Cruickshank**, Recording Secretary

From the moment Dr. A. J. Beddie, with his constant four-footed companion Zane, welcomed the members of the Saskatchewan Natural History Society to the lecture room of the Saskatchewan Training School until reluctant good-byes were said in the Canadian Room of the Harwood Hotel, expert planning and efficient carrying out of details was at all times evident in this year's annual meeting. The Natural History Society of Moose Jaw, the "Friendly City," outdid itself!

One hundred and two persons registered for the business and programme sessions, among them more junior members than were present at any previous annual meeting. Some members were missing—the society in the last year suffered great loss in the passing of Cliff Shaw, a former editor of the **Blue Jay**, and Allan Hudson, a former director. In their memory, a two-minute silence was observed.

The programme began with a joint lecture by W. B. Hyshka and A. J. Rankin. Mr. Hyshka gave a talk with pictures on Old Wives Lake, showing and remarking on the nesting habits of the birds which live there. The

most amazing picture was one of pelicans nesting among rose briar where the bushes had been stripped bare. Mr. Rankin's pictures were of the "Prairie Sahara." He stressed how conscious we are of water, the stabilization of which has now begun with the fulfilment of a 50-year-old dream in the building of the Outlook Dam. Pollution by oil, caustic soda and sewage of our waterways is a serious but solvable problem.

At the afternoon session, Thomas Kehoe, Curator of Archaeology and Ethnology at the provincial museum, with pictures explained how the archaeologist expects to reconstruct the history of the past in Saskatchewan. Archaeological displays arranged in the meeting room aroused keen interest and much comment.

Elizabeth Cruickshank gave some of her impressions of the A.O.U. meeting.

Resolutions presented at the meeting dealt with the following matters: a request for early development of a portion of the Moose Jaw Creek as a permanent wildlife sanctuary; request for permission to sell pictures of the habitat groups at the Museum; appreciation to the Conservation

Grants Committee of the Department of Natural Resources for subsidizing the printing of the **Blue Jay** and other S.N.H.S. publications; special thanks to Dr. Beddie for use of the lecture hall and to the Moose Jaw Society for arrangements and hospitality; recommendation of the purchase by the Department of Natural Resources of land at Warner Lake to maintain it as a natural marsh; urging of the government to set up a wetlands committee with a view to maintaining and preserving natural marsh areas in the province; increased protection for Sandhill Cranes at the north end of Last Mountain Lake, with the planting of lure crops and the compensation of farmers for crop losses incurred; request that the Department of Natural Resources set up natural grassland preserves, with the preservation of populations of the prairie dog near Val Marie as part of the plan; protection urged for the remaining Park area of the Legislative Grounds in Regina, accompanied by a protest against the recent large-scale removal of some of the oldest trees for roads and parking areas and a suggestion that replanting be under-

taken; request to the President of the United States to halt the slaughter of albatrosses on Sand Island of the Midway Group.

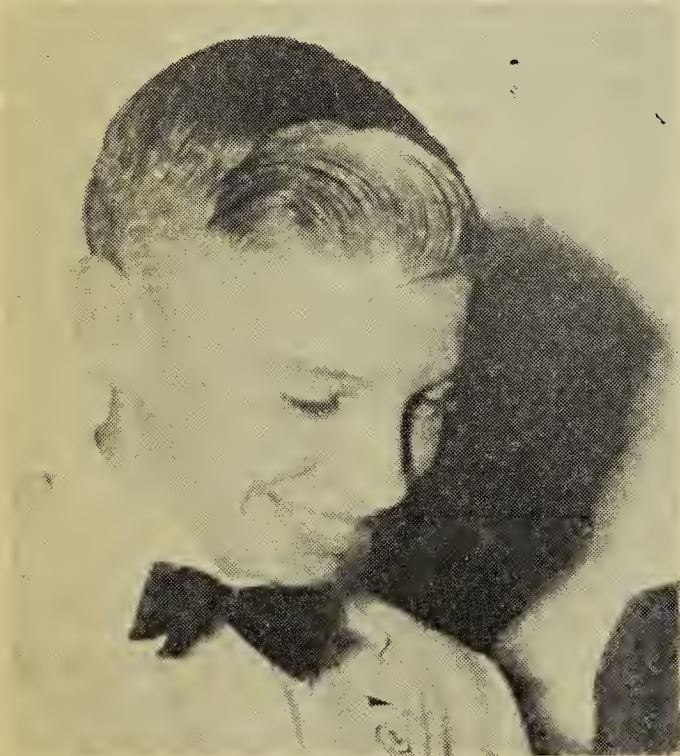
Members who showed slides included: Fred Lahrman, Joyce Dew, D. Hooper, J. Hodges, M. Street, Mrs. M. Robinson, Mrs. Cy Knight, Ethel Peart.

The first award of the Cliff Shaw Memorial Award was presented to Glen Fox for his nesting study of the Horned Lark, printed in the **Blue Jay**. The 1959 Conservation Award went to Dr. Stuart Houston, who has just published with Maurice Street **The Birds of the Saskatchewan River**.

Angus Gavin, General Manager of Ducks Unlimited, was guest speaker at the annual dinner. We are glad to be able to print his address in this issue.

Nancy Dunn and her committee cleverly fashioned decorative bird-watchers and rose-hip sprays with a beautiful floral centerpiece for the tables, bringing most complimentary comments from all present at dinner.

Old friends and new look forward to meeting again at Greenwater Lake in June and in Regina October next.



Moose Jaw Times Herald
GLEN A. FOX

The first award of the Cliff Shaw Memorial prize was made to Glen A. Fox whose study of early spring nesting of the Horned Lark in the Kindersley area was thereby recognized as a significant contribution to natural history in the **Blue Jay**.



Russell Studios
C. STUART HOUSTON

The 1959 Conservation Award was made to Dr. Stuart Houston who has published this year in collaboration with Maurice Street a comprehensive study of the **Birds of the Saskatchewan River, Carlton to Cumberland**.