FLUCTUATING WINTER BIRD POPULATIONS.— *Sig Jordheim* of *White Bear* writes to ask how many **Blue Jay** readers saw redpolls this past winter, commenting on their scarcity in his area. In the winter of 1957-58 he had anywhere from 500 to 1,000 of them feeding at his feed station (a little pasture knoll on which he scatters grain cleanings or screenings), but this year only a few redpolls fed there for a short time and only a few small, scattered flocks were seen elsewhere all winter. Here in Regina our experience with redpolls has been similar, only a few of these birds being observed in the Legislative Grounds during the whole season. On the other hand, we had an unusual number of Bohemian Waxwings, reported throughout the winter by observers in different parts of the city. It appears that they were also common farther south. A clipping from the *Story City Herald*, March 12, 1959, sent on to us by *Mrs. Thorval Anderson* of *Kelving-ton*, tells of an unusual major invasion of Bohemian Waxwings in Iowa. Jack Musgrove, Iowa state department naturalist, was quoted as having received his first Iowa specimen of the bird in his 22 years with the state, and observations of the birds were coming in from many points in the state. Previous appearances reported for the state were dated 1875, 1879, 1900, 1922. These comments on redpolls and waxwings show that the numbers of our winter birds do fluctuate markedly. It was interesting to see the same observation made in a column of Hugh Boyd's (*Leader-Post*, March 9, 1935), that I happened to be re-reading recently. He noted that redpolls, Pine Grosbeaks and Bohemian Waxwings, usually to be seen in Regina, were conspicuous by their absence during the winter of 1934-35; and John Walker had written at the same time from Moose Jaw to say that "he had not seen a single Pine Grosbeak, Bohemian Waxwing, or redpoll that winter."

Protection for Hawks and Owls in Sask.

In the last issue of the **Blue Jay** we published the preliminary draft of a brief from the Saskatchewan Natural History Society urging protection for hawks and owls. Since then, encouraging support has come from two other organizations. The Saskatchewan Fish and Game League, at its annual convention in North Battleford, February 12-14, 1959, passed the following amended resolution 31-0:

> Resolved that legal protection be given to hawks and owls except that a farmer, game farm owner or employee of either, may shoot any such bird that is causing damage. Amended to provide legal protection between April 1 and November 30 only, with the exception as in the resolution.

Later, at a meeting on April 27, 1959, the Regina branch of the Saskatchewan Institute of Agrologists and the Agricultural Institute of Canada passed the motion that they were in agreement, in principle, with the recommendation of the Saskatchewan Natural History Society to the Government of Saskatchewan that:

> Every bird of prey (eagle, osprey, hawk and owl) should be protected, except that the owner of poultry or other domestic animals and the members of his immediate household may destroy by shooting any hawk or owl which is doing real damage, or threatening damage to the said poultry or other domestic animals.

Our society will urge the Government at its next session to implement legislation providing full protection. The two resolutions recently passed encourage us to believe that many groups in the province are sympathetic to such protection. If you have contacts with such groups, we urge you to ask for their support. Copies of the brief and other information desired may be obtained from Dr. R. Bremner, Chairman of the Predator Committee, 725 University Drive, Saskatoon, or G. F. Ledingham, Editor of the **Blue Jay**, 2335 Athol St., Regina.

June is the month of most activity for many species of birds breeding in the prairie provinces. If you have information about nesting birds in Manitoba, Saskatchewan or Alberta, please send for and fill in nest record cards for the Prairie Nest Records Scheme. Write for cards to **Prairie Nest Records Scheme, c/o Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History, Regina, Sask.**