

# BOYS' AND GIRLS' SECTION

Edited by Joyce Dew, Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History



## NEWS FOR THE BOYS AND GIRLS

We are trying something new in this issue of the **Blue Jay**—a bird contest. Some of the birds are easy to identify, others you will have to identify by the clues given. Let us know how you like the idea of this contest and if you would like to see more contests of this sort. You will also notice that the insects, birds, etc., on the top of this page are different from last issue's. If any of you want to try drawing birds and insects like these, we may be able to use them for the next issue.

We hope that you will have more nature observations to send us now that spring is here. From now on we shall print the name and address of everyone sending in observations, as well as printing as many of the letters as we have space for. We are also interested in hearing about nature activities your school or club is carrying out. Such reports will encourage other groups to start activities.

We would very much like to have you visit the Museum. If your teacher brings your class for a lecture tour tell your museum guide that you are a reader of the **Blue Jay**. We want to meet you in person and of course encourage you to send in contributions!

## CONTEST RULES

Any young person may submit material for this section of the **Blue Jay**. The entries must be first-hand observations in the form of letters, stories, poems, black - and - white sketches or photographs. Letters should not exceed 500 words. All entries must be accompanied by the name, age, and address of the sender.

Book prizes or magazine subscriptions will be awarded with each issue of the **Blue Jay**. Special prizes will be given from time to time to teachers who encourage their pupils to write or who sponsor nature activities about which the children write.

Send in your nature observations to Boys' and Girls' Section, **Blue Jay**, Miss Joyce Dew, Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History, Regina. The closing date for the next issue is April 15, 1960.

## PRIZE WINNERS

The prize this issue goes to Bryan Lyster of Abernethy for his story on "A Summer Pet." Congratulations, Bryan, we hope to be hearing from you again.

## A SUMMER PET

by **Bryan Lyster**, age 11, Abernethy

On a cold, rainy day in July when I was feeding my flock of tame ducks I noticed a strange duck amongst them. As soon as he saw me, he flew to the other end of the dam. I crept along behind bushes and trees to get a better look at him. I found that he was a young Canvasback. I decided it would be fun to try and tame him.

I put the feed out and hid myself behind the barn which is quite close to the dam. As soon as I was out of sight he came up to feed with the others. I did this for about five days and on the sixth day he didn't fly away but swam around in circles about 20 feet from the shore. Each day he started to come closer to the shore when I fed them. Soon he would come up to eat with the others, when I was in plain sight. It was not long until he would come to my duck call every time.

He stayed all summer but in late autumn he heeded the call of the other ducks to go south. I miss our visitor very much and hope he will return in the spring.

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## A MOURNING DOVE'S NEST

by **Darlene Svinger**, age 12, Mankota

This summer, while spending a week of holidays at my grandmother's, I had the chance to see a Mourning Dove's nest. Every day I passed the tree to go to the garden. I didn't notice the nest till the day before I went home, when a flutter of wings gave the secret away.

The nest was on the branch of a poplar tree, about six feet from the ground. It was a small, round, flat platform built of long grass and small twigs. In the nest, there were two chalky white eggs. Strange as it may seem, my grandmother said she had never seen the nest. In the evening, as the darkness was falling, the Mourning Dove would sit on the eggs, and give her sad call.

## THE DEER

by **Mildred Boon**, age 12, Maryfield

One morning as I was riding to school on the bus, one of the boys said, "Look at the jumper!" All eyes were soon fastened on an enormous buck, with a most magnificent set of antlers on its head. The bus driver honked the horn. At once the splendid beast was alert. With a bound he went along on the other side of the fence. Up went his big white tail, warning others of danger. As his speed increased, the long, trim, slender legs swiftly covered the ground. Again the horn blasted. The buck's tail went down. With huge leaps it galloped on. Watching the speedometer we saw the deer was going thirty miles an hour. Over a pile of brush, through a fence, the buck flew, without a second of hesitation.

Just in time we noticed we were arriving at the corner. The bus made it around the corner, while the deer continued his race to safety.

That morning I saw a sight I will never forget. At close range I observed one of the most graceful animals of the Canadian Plains.

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## NEWS FROM JUNIOR MEMBERS

Several junior members sent in drawings recently. Colleen Schab and Verna Horaska of Calder, Saskatchewan, drew Great Blue Herons. Both drawings showed the long legs of the bird and its long stout bill. Have any of you seen a heronry where these birds build their nests?

Darlene Svinger drew the Mourning Dove's nest which she tells about in her letter. Any junior members who want to keep a record of their nest observations should write in to their junior editor for further information.

Ernest Sauve of Fort-a-la-Corne drew two robins in a tree, and Ronnie Kirkham tells about three baby rabbits which his dad found in a field. They refused to eat so they were taken back to the field.

We are always pleased to get letters, drawings and photographs from junior members, so let us hear from you.



# ***Name the Bird Contest***



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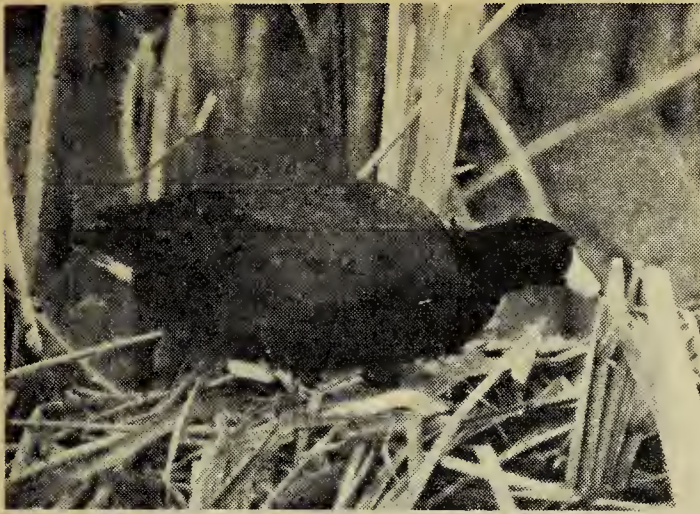


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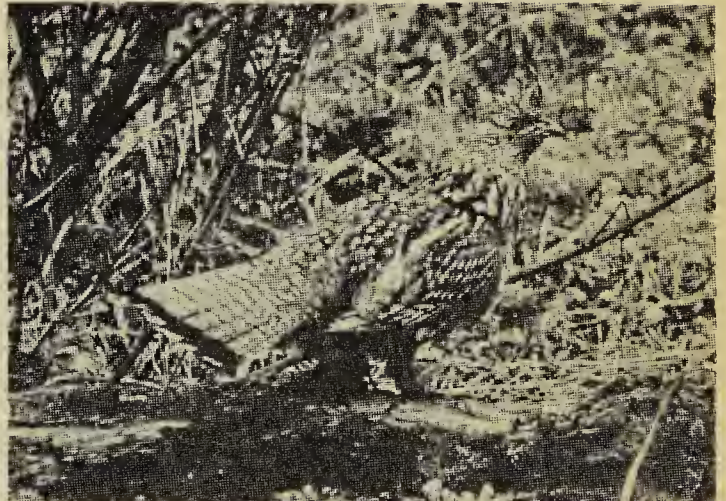
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**Contest Rules:** Any boy or girl, 16 or under, may enter the contest. Write your name, age and address at the top of the page then number from 1 to 12. After each number write the name of the bird in the corresponding picture. The names are those used according to the latest field check-list of Saskatchewan birds. This check-list can be obtained free of charge by writing to the Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History, Regina. To help you name the bird their scrambled names are given here. Closing date for entries is April 15. Prizes will be awarded according to age group. A special bird photograph will be given to everyone who enters.

**Scrambled Names:** poohgwni naerc; wocr; nowsy wlo; laalrmd; fderuf rgesuo; 'sbrwere kbaldridc; riamecan vteaoc; ltpniai; adanac esoog; mocrorant; tewih-crwoend sprrwao; naciream toco.