

# BLUE JAY CHATTER

This issue marks the beginning of the nineteenth volume of the **Blue Jay**. During these past nineteen years there have been many changes. It is interesting to remember the very modest beginning in 1942 when the membership was 25 cents per year. For nine years the **Blue Jay** was mimeographed and many were the "bees" when members joined in colouring the cover page, mimeographing, collating, stapling, or mailing the **Blue Jay**. Those good old days are not entirely gone for a recent "bee" in Regina, handsomely fed with coffee and cakes by our new treasurer, Mrs. Grace Steele, sent out over 1600 postcards to people who had not yet sent in their membership for 1961. To get this issue in the mails a "bee" in Saskatoon will put the address labels on the **Blue Jay**.

It is important that there be some talk of the past so that new members will know that the society has always been a co-operative venture, sharing work as well as experiences and interests. Each new member shares with the rest of us responsibility for the success of the society and pride in its achievements. Though we cannot all publish articles in the **Blue Jay** we can all talk to others about our natural history interests. One of the main aims of the **Blue Jay** is to develop a true appreciation of our natural resources.

We always devote some pages of the **Blue Jay** to young people. You will notice that with this issue the section edited by Joyce Dew has a new name, **Junior Naturalists**. To interest young people in natural history is important: many of our best Saskatchewan naturalists started out as readers and contributors to the **Blue Jay**.

With this issue we are starting a new section directed to senior students. This section will be of special interest to High School students but many of the more serious Public School students will find much of interest in it too. The first of the series is written by Dr. T. Steeves, Professor of Biology, University of Saskatchewan, and his assistant, Miss Maureen Rever. It is hoped that High School teachers will find many useful classroom suggestions and will see that each **Blue Jay** is carefully saved in the school library.

The publication of an index to the first 18 volumes of the **Blue Jay** is being considered. Once there is an index, complete sets of the **Blue Jay** will have increased value for anyone writing on any aspect of Saskatchewan natural history. Since early volumes are rare, it will be difficult for individuals to acquire complete sets but perhaps each local society could make it a special project to see that there is a complete set (bound) in the local library.

The saddest thing about the passing of time and the changes that it brings is the loss of friends. Readers of the **Blue Jay**, as well as the Editor, will miss the name and the contributions of Mr. A. C. Budd. It is characteristic of the thoughtfulness of Mr. Budd that he had been coaching Mr. Keith Best to take his place. We sincerely hope that the series of articles contributed so faithfully from Swift Current will be continued by Mr. Best in future issues. This will be a most fitting memorial to Archie Budd.

Preparing this issue of the **Blue Jay** has been a very difficult job for your Editor. There was much more material than could be used. In making a selection from this material consideration was given to balancing different sections, and so we have long and important articles on birds, plants and archaeology. This issue has 56 pages, the biggest **Blue Jay** ever printed, but if this size is to continue we will need more members. If you have received this issue you have paid for 1961. If you know of anyone who has not received this issue remind him to send his membership, or take the money for him and send it in to the treasurer, Mrs. Grace Steele, 3603 Caen Avenue, or to our membership chairman, Miss Sylvia Harrison, 6 Claire Apts., Regina.