

# BLUE JAY CHATTER

## GUIDE TO THE MAMMALS OF SASKATCHEWAN

Our society's main achievement in 1958 beyond the printing of the **Blue Jay** and the happy and successful meetings at Emma Lake and Saskatoon was the printing of our first special publication. Harvey Beck's **Guide to the Mammals of Saskatchewan** is the first bulletin identifying all of our mammals and giving the known distribution of each one of them. Every member of our society, and every school and every home library in Saskatchewan should have a copy.

In 1959 we hope to continue the series of special publications by printing two or three local bird lists. The first of these will be **Birds of the Qu'Appelle** by our new president, Manley Callin. We are anxious to have these bird bulletins in print as soon as possible, since the A.O.U. will be holding its annual meeting and field trips in Saskatchewan in 1959.

Printing the **Guide to the Mammals of Saskatchewan** was a big venture for our society. Printing costs alone exceed \$1,000.00. Although we are selling the bulletin for 50¢, it will be many years before we have a complete return on our investment. In 1959 we shall need large amounts of additional capital to publish the projected regional bird lists. If we are going to print special publications we shall need the help of every member. You may help in two ways. First, of course, you can renew your membership promptly and help gain new members for the society. Secondly, because our need is so immediate, we should like to appeal to the membership for donations to support this special project. In making a donation you will be making a very real contribution to conservation in our province. G.F.L.

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## A.O.U. MEETS IN REGINA — AUGUST, 1959

Ornithologists, just plain bird-watchers and society members as a whole should plan now to attend this important event. For five days during the last week of August next year ornithologists from all over North America and probably from several foreign nations will convene in Regina at the Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History. This will be the seventy-seventh meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union. The A.O.U. is the largest and oldest scientific ornithological society on the continent. Experts in all aspects of ornithology—artists, lecturers, photographers, research scientists—will be on hand to discuss latest discoveries and advances in the study of birds. Most of the famous bird-men of North America have already said they are planning to come to Regina so we can expect a large attendance. Since this is the first time this world-famous organization has ever met in western Canada there is a real opportunity for all concerned to help to make this a successful and memorable meeting.

One need **not** be a member of the A.O.U. in order to attend—all who are interested in birds are urged to set aside the last week of August now—plan to attend! Too scientific? Not so. At the last annual meeting (October 14-19, 1958, New York City) Dr. Ernest Mayr, president of the A.O.U., in the banquet address, stressed the role of the amateur, stating that it is the amateur who has made the most important contribution in the past to ornithology and the amateur can still do so.

We'd like to see as many members as possible in attendance at the Regina meeting. There will be special exhibits, including a display of bird art work by Canadian artists, a photo exhibit, a number of good movies, other entertainment, social activities, and informal field-trips. No doubt the most important aspect for many in western Canada is the opportunity to meet and visit with bird-people from all over North America. Yes, Roger Tory Peterson said he definitely expects to come! R.W.N.