

more "rugged" individualists, but the ultimate success of conservation depends upon reaching the children—the citizens of to-morrow. The law may inform the hunter that he should kill for food only but, unless he understands and appreciates the essential need for conservation, there will never be enough law enforcement agencies to ensure that he does not indulge in wanton killing.

Mr. Livingston cited the case of one of the eastern states of the United States which had put a bounty on one species of hawk, the Goshawk. As a result of this bounty, 9,000 hawks were shot in a single year, but only one solitary specimen turned out to be a Goshawk. It is hardly necessary to point out that 9,000 hawks could do a terrific job of rodent control. In marked contrast, many states in the United States and several provinces in Canada have taken steps to protect hawks, owls and eagles from persecution.

Another case of senseless slaughter has been cited by Gregory Clark. A natural history group in a small city in eastern Canada made a survey of one half mile of beach near their city and collected the following birds which had all been shot: 25 Red-

backed Sandpipers, 10 Pectoral Sandpipers, 2 Killdeers, 1 Long-eared Owl, 1 Sanderling, 8 Black-bellied Plovers, 25 Horned Grebes, 2 Herring Gulls, 3 Ring-billed Gulls, 1 Bonaparte's Gull, 1 Great Blue Heron, 30 Red-breasted Mergansers, 1 Hooded Merganser.

One could quote and write volumes about the essential balance and interdependence between plant, animal, bird, insect and human life. The inevitable conclusion is that our wildlife is a precious heritage both from an economic and an aesthetic point of view. One of our responsibilities is to seek the most practical approach to securing more general appreciation and understanding of that heritage. Our own Saskatchewan Natural History Society has put considerable effort into placing our publication the **Blue Jay** into as many schools as possible. Possibly we should also be making some inquiry as to how effectively conservation is being taught in the various school grades.

It is said that the best things in life are free. How true this is, and one must hope that we do not pay the price of plundering our inheritance.

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## THE JAYS

It was a miracle  
Vouchsafed to none but me;  
I watched four jays fly down  
Into an almond tree;  
They tossed its twigs about—  
Flew in—flew out.

The little rose-crowned tree  
Snowed petals and shocked sight  
With flashes of cobalt fire  
And gleams of indigo light;  
For an instant, lovely past words,  
It was a bower of birds.

Then they were gone; but I  
Having seen it once, can raise  
In the mind's eye at will  
The tree that burned with jays—  
The tree whose blossomings  
Were petals and heaven-blue wings.

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