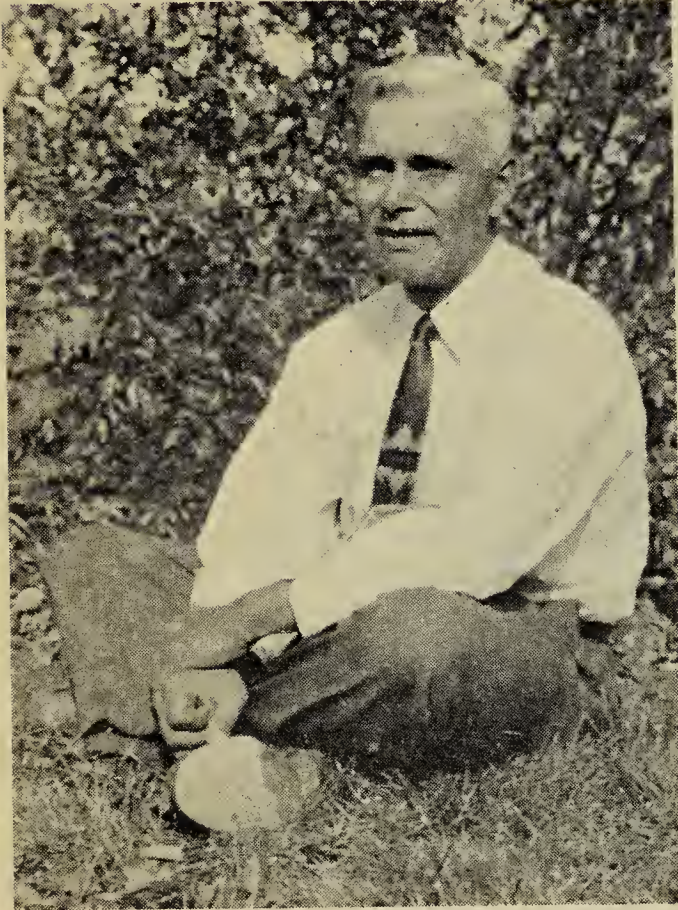


## President's Page

by Steve Mann, Skull Creek



As your new President I would first like to thank the nominating committee for their confidence in me. I feel that they have more in me than I have in myself, but I will certainly endeavour to further all interests of the Society pertaining to natural history and the conservation of our natural resources. Distance may make it difficult for me to attend all of our meetings, but our first vice-president, Mr. Doug Wade, has very kindly offered to substitute for me in my absence.

I am sure that all members will be pleased to learn that Dr. George Ledingham has been persuaded to take on again the duties of editor. It is a job that requires a great deal of labour behind the scenes, and I would urge all members who have any information of interest, in the line of nature material, to send it to him so that he in turn can pass it on to readers of the **Blue Jay**. Also if you have any suggestions for the executive to work on, it would be greatly appreciated if you would send them either to myself or other officers of the Society.

I suppose as your President I should give you an outline of my connections with the Saskatchewan Natural History Society. I have been a member of the Society since its inception and before that I was a member of the Yorkton Natural History Society. The latter, as a great many of you know, was formed by a group of very enthusiastic naturalists headed by Mrs. Isabel Priestly. After her death the publishing of the Society's magazine, the **Blue Jay**, was taken over by the Saskatchewan Natural History Society.

The **Blue Jay** was started because Mrs. Priestly and her small group felt the need to pass on, and exchange, information on birds, and later, all natural history subjects. This great need is still present, which is the reason I have kept up my membership and have tried to pass on at least some of my observations to others.

Before the Yorkton Natural History Society started I used to correspond with several people, including the late Laurence B. Potter of East End, Saskatchewan, who were interested in nature, especially ornithology. We tried to get together for a "birding" trip once each year. We lived over 30 miles apart, and in those days it meant a trip by either saddle horse or horse and buggy, but the pleasure we obtained by sharing each other's notes and observations was always worth the effort. That is why I always urge any of our members to attend any meetings they possibly can, not only of the Saskatchewan Natural History Society, but of their local societies. It is the help we receive from others at these meetings that keeps our interest in nature alert, and keeps us "on our toes" so to speak.

In concluding, it is my sincere wish that our Society may continue to expand and accomplish many worthwhile projects. With the encroachment of civilization on many natural sanctuaries, and the use of chemicals which upset the balance of nature, naturalists, as never before, should be alert to all the needs of conservation.