

# JUNIOR NATURALISTS

Edited by **Joyce Deutscher**, Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History



Young Cedar Waxwings, by William P. Saban

**WANTED!** More material for this section. We will be forced to discontinue this section unless we get more material sent in to it. Teachers are particularly urged to make writing to the **Blue Jay** a class project. We need your help. Deadline next issue January 15.



**NOTE:** The name of the boy who sent us this drawing has been mislaid. Please write and identify yourself.

## YOUNG CEDAR WAXWINGS

by William P. Saban, age 14,  
Kelvington

Last summer a pair of Cedar Waxwings made a nest in our caraganas near the house and another some distance away. Again this summer I found a waxwing nest containing four young ones. Three of the four seemed in good condition except the one which hatched later and appeared to be sleeping most of the time. In a few days the youngest one had grown as big as the other three.

I came upon this nest August the ninth and I guessed the young were two weeks old. On August twelfth all four had taken flight.

## CROWS

by Rachel Kiniowski, age 10, Calder

During the early part of September large flocks of crows would settle on our hay meadow and eat grasshoppers.

One evening just before dusk as my brother, sister and I were just coming out of a poplar wooded pasture we heard a sound like that of a violent storm. All at once we saw a cloud of crows rise into the air. They settled down on the trees again a short distance away. There must have been thousands of them as the tops of the trees were just black with them. Two days later we counted

twelve different flocks about forty crows in each, flying towards the same place where we had seen them settling for the night. Our father said that last year he saw thousands of crows (estimate) settled for the night on the same bushes. He also said that the noise of their cawing and wing-flapping was so great that he and his companion couldn't hear each other speaking. From this observation it seems that crows have a definite camping place to rest at during migration.

## THE HOUSE WRENS AND THEIR ALBINO

by Bohdam Pylypec, Yellow Creek

This summer a pair of house wrens constructed a nest in a skull of a dead cow which I hung on a fence post. When I first saw the nest I thought that there were only three brown baby house wrens. Later I found out that there was also an albino. It was about the same size as the others and was all white. They were all big and soon they were ready to leave the nest. When they left the nest an egg of the house wren was left in it.

After I saw the mother scolding her babies to hide. I only saw two brown baby house wrens. The other two were hidden. Later, however, I saw the albino flying above our field.