

# BLUE JAY CHATTER

In **Blue Jay** Chatter, June 1957, we had the pleasure of announcing the formation of a Natural History Society in Moose Jaw. Now, one year later, we are able to announce the formation of the Garden River Natural History Society (see page 96). Information about this new society came to us after our March issue had gone to press but our printers kindly consented to include Mr. Sudal's name in the list of local presidents on the inside back cover. We are hoping that we will have the opportunity of meeting some of the people from the Garden River Natural History Society at our annual summer meeting at Emma Lake.

In a provincial society such as ours one of the biggest obstacles to efficient operation is the great distance between the different members and officers of the society. This difficulty is being overcome to some extent this year by holding our meetings in different places. In March we had an executive meeting in Davidson (see page 95). In June we will meet at Emma Lake, and in October we will meet in Saskatoon. Holding our meetings in different parts of the province makes it possible for more people to attend at least some of our meetings, and it also allows a sharing of some of the work and responsibilities of the society. We are grateful to the Prince Albert Natural History Society for the work it is doing in preparing an excellent programme for our June 14 and 15 meeting at Emma Lake. The emphasis during this outdoor meeting is to be on forestry but we will also be hoping to see all the birds recorded in that area by Fay Mowat. We are grateful, too, to our president and the Saskatoon Natural History Society for undertaking the responsibility for the annual meeting which is to be held in Saskatoon on October 18. The Saskatoon executive has requested us to ask for reports for the Annual Meeting of any interesting projects carried on by clubs or individual members during the year.

People who cannot attend these meetings are encouraged to write to the editor so that we may become acquainted with them at least by mail. Until a publication similar to the **Blue Jay** is available in Manitoba and Alberta we welcome the contributions of members from these provinces. We wish that there could be a greater exchange of ideas among the naturalists of the three prairie provinces. A step toward such co-operation will be taken this summer when members from all three provinces participate in the Prairie Nest Records Scheme (page 65). Everyone is urged to use the record cards available from the Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History which has offered to house records for the whole prairie region.

In this issue we are pleased to announce a special publication. This, we hope, will be the first of many such publications sponsored by the Saskatchewan Natural History Society. Harvey Beck has prepared "A Guide to Saskatchewan Mammals" which will be available this summer. Although more than 130 years have elapsed since the publication of Sir John Richardson's **Fauna Boreali-Americana** (Volume one of which includes information on Saskatchewan mammals) no comprehensive provincial list of our mammals has since appeared in print. The Beck bulletin, which deals largely with the identification and distribution of our mammals, is therefore an important contribution, and everyone interested in Saskatchewan natural history will want to have a copy.

Another first for this issue is the appearance of our first paid advertisement (page 77). If you cannot purchase books locally write to the Ontario address given in the advertisement and please mention the **Blue Jay**. Advertisements in keeping with the nature of the **Blue Jay** will be considered for future issues. The editor will be glad to receive inquiries about advertising in the **Blue Jay**.