

BLUE JAY CHATTER

The editors of Saskatchewan's quarterly natural history journal, **The Blue Jay**, are encouraged to see signs of the development of similar projects in Manitoba and Alberta. Recently, the first number of the 1964 **Newsletter** of the Natural History Society of Manitoba appeared, indicating that this bulletin is off to a good start for its second year, or really for its third year, since the first number was published in 1962. It looks as if the Manitoba **Newsletter** is on its way to becoming a continuing, regular publication.

At the same time, a bulletin arrived from the Calgary Bird Club (No. 27, March 1964) outlining summer study projects for birders in southern Alberta—migration reports on Bufflehead ducks, location of feeding and roosting sites of gulls in the Calgary area where gulls are a possible hazard to aircraft, banding of Starling nestlings with a view to determining the direction of their fall migration, and co-operation in our Prairie Nest Records Scheme. Dr. M. Timothy Myres, of the University of Alberta, Calgary, wrote to tell us of the renewed effort that the Calgary Bird Club is making to put out a bulletin and an annual report in order to accumulate and preserve available information, and he invites inquiries from SNHS members who live in southern Alberta where they could participate in some of these projects.

The newly-formed British Columbia Nature Council is also considering a publication that would co-ordinate the activities of its local branches. An invitation to attend their first conference on May 9 and 10 in Penticton was extended by the Council's secretary, Mrs. H. Lamoureux, to any interested SNHS members who could go to talk over with them the projects of the Saskatchewan Society. We suspected that Mrs. Lamoureux had somehow got a rather flattering impression of our society and we felt pretty diffident about any advice our group could give to a Council made up of strong local societies like the Victoria Naturalists who have their own publication, and whose work in conservation and in natural history is well known! However, we did like the idea of talking over mutual interests and concerns, for we think contacts with neighbouring societies will strengthen each provincial society.

We have always felt that the **Blue Jay** has played a special role in publishing interesting observations of the plant and animal life of the Northern Great Plains. If our journal has so often transcended provincial and state boundaries, it has been because the amateur observers of these regions had no other medium for sharing their reports with others. We know these observers will welcome the formation of new provincial groups which will give additional encouragement to them to study and report in their own area. The editors of the **Blue Jay** are convinced that natural history in the four western Canadian provinces and the adjoining states can best be served by the work of a number of groups, each giving personal encouragement to members close to them.

Within the province there may also be a place for the formation of other provincial societies. A year ago the **Blue Jay** announced the first meeting of the Saskatchewan Archaeological Society. Since then, this society has put out a series of mimeographed bulletins (Nos. 1-5), and has held a successful second annual meeting. We wish the Society every success, for we know that the more people who become active in the study of one aspect of natural history, the more people there will be interested in all aspects of nature.

We would welcome Saskatchewan archaeologists, and naturalists from the adjoining provinces and states, at our Summer Meeting, June 5, 6, 7 at Beechy, and at our Annual Meeting in October.

The Editors.