

EDITORIAL

The *Blue Jay* began as a mimeographed quarterly with only a few pages per issue. The membership fee was 25 cents per year. The present *Blue Jay* has somewhat over 200 pages per year, and the lithograph process allows use of photographs to illustrate the articles. Our society membership fee of two dollars barely covers the printing costs of the *Blue Jay*, but many members also give donations which enable the Saskatchewan Natural History Society to undertake other activities in natural history and conservation.

Perhaps the most successful of these additional activities has been the printing of Special Publications. In the past ten years six publications have been printed:

1. A Guide to Saskatchewan Mammals. W. H. Beck. 1958. 52 pp. 50¢.
2. The Birds of the Saskatchewan River, Carlton to Cumberland. C. S. Houston and M. G. Street. 1959. 205 pp. \$1.50.
3. Birds of Regina. Margaret Belcher. 1961. 76 pp. \$1.00.
4. The Blue Jay Index, 1942-60. Joyce Deutscher. 1962. 36 pp. \$2.00.
5. Birds of the Lake Athabasca Region, Sask. R. W. Nero. 1963. 143 pp. \$2.50.
6. The Birds of Northeastern Sask. R. W. Nero. 1967. 96 pp. \$2.00.

Another publication of the society that is often missed because it does not belong to the numbered series is Frank Roy's list (mimeographed) of the *Birds of the Elbow* (1964. 33 pp. 50¢). Before the end of 1968, it is hoped that the seventh Special Publication will appear in print, Manley Callin's *Birds of the Qu'Appelle Valley*. It seems worthwhile listing these publications with their prices, for many of our new members may not know that they are available. Orders for any of these publications may be sent to our Treasurer, Frank Brazier, Box 1121, Regina.

The Society takes pride, too, in other natural history publications written by its members but published under other auspices. Some of these, such as Leith Knight's recent *Birds of the Moose Jaw Area* (1967. 73 pp. \$1.50), have been supported by local natural history societies, and others have been published independently of any organization. In order that our readers will know about them, we are glad to review these books in the book review section of the *Blue Jay* and in the *Newsletter*. In this issue, for example, Stuart Houston describes Doug Gilroy's beautiful *Album of Prairie Birds* in which familiar coloured photographs from Doug's "Prairie Wildlife" column are reproduced.

One book which we must certainly mention is R. D. Symons' *Hours and the Birds*, which Mrs. Cruickshank is reviewing in this issue. The Society has a special interest in this book because it gave financial support to allow the inclusion of 17 of Mr. Symons' appealing water colours. We congratulate Mr. Symons on his work, and are happy both for his sake and the Society's that the book has been so well received throughout Canada and the United States. Royalties allowed us by the author and a percentage of any sales of the book made through our Bookshop will enable us gradually to recover our contribution and to support other projects.

It can be seen that though our first Special Publication dealt with Saskatchewan mammals, our publications since then have been concerned mainly with birds. It is our hope, however, that future booklets will deal with many aspects of natural history.

Our Society has taken further responsibility for the encouragement of the study of nature and for the conservation of wildlife species by the acquisition of two sanctuaries. One of these is in the southwest of the province for the protection of the Prairie Dog, and the other to the northeast in quite a different life zone, where a half section of the countryside dear to Maurice Street is being preserved as a memorial to him. We shall visit this new sanctuary at Nipawin at the time of the Summer Meeting on June 14-16, 1968. At the present time, Stan Riome and his friends are finishing the sign which will be erected, honouring Maurice Street in these words:

"His life was man and nature at one."