

## Announcing HOURS AND THE BIRDS

Scheduled for publication this year is Robert D. Symons' lively personal account of his experience of birds in Saskatchewan, entitled *Hours and the Birds—a Saskatchewan Record*, and illustrated by his sensitive full-page water colour paintings and a wealth of black and white sketches. R. D. Symons is a long-time member of the Saskatchewan Natural History Society, and a past chairman of our Conservation Committee. He is perhaps best known to members for his work (with Fred W. Lahrman) painting the backgrounds for the realistic habitat cases in the Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History. These habitat cases rank with any on this continent, and they leave no doubt as to his reputation as an artist. His reputation as a writer dates chiefly from the publication by Longmans Green in 1963 of his book, *Many Trails*.

Of Symons' new book, Will Klein, Executive Director of the Saskatchewan Centennial Corporation (which is giving generous financial support to SNHS to assist in the printing of the work) writes glowingly in the foreword:

"In Robert D. Symons' own words, 'the eye sees as the heart directs,' and for fifty years this artist son of an artist father has carefully observed the ways of birds, beasts and people in the western Canada which he has made his own. His book is written with sympathy and conviction and carries the authority of research and knowledge.

"Though there can be no doubt concerning Mr. Symons' thorough familiarity with the varied subjects dealt with in *Hours and the Birds*, his style is vigorous and fresh, sensitive and perceptive, at no time pedantic or prosy, so that not only the avid 'bird-watcher' and ornithologist, but the casual reader as well will find it a source of delight, as much for the clarity of its expression as for the delicacy of its illustrations.

"*Hours and the Birds* is more than a handbook of Saskatchewan avian life. It is, in fact, a history, a philosophy, a topographical and ecological guide book, containing a significant amount of social commentary, encapsulated in the story of one man who, with an extraordinary gift of vision, has lived and moved among the people of Saskatchewan in an unobtrusive and wholly unpretentious way for half a century.

"Because the gift of insight with which Mr. Symons is endowed is so meaningful to the people of this nation, particularly when it is backed up by his ability to portray, both by brush and in written form, the observations of a lifetime, the Saskatchewan Centennial Corporation, together with the Saskatchewan Natural History Society is pleased to have had a part in making this work available to the public."

*Hours and the Birds — a Saskatchewan Record* will be published by the University of Toronto Press, assuring the highest standard of printing. Illustrated by 17 color plates and numerous sketches, it will be an ideal item for presentation or gift, and a book that will be handed down as a family treasure to succeeding generations. We trust that every member will wish to buy one. This is our Society's big centennial project and the only book to receive the support of the Saskatchewan Centennial Corporation. Our investment in this book can be recouped only through sales of this book by the Blue Jay Book Shop, Box 1121, Regina. Send your order now — \$12.50 plus tax.

### USED BOOKS WANTED

If you have books on birds, plants, minerals, or any natural history or natural science subject to sell please send your list to W. W. McGregor, 59 Divadale Drive, Toronto 17, Ontario.