

## A Home for the Blue Jay

Now, as we end our twenty-sixth year of publication, the people who gather the information, publish the Saskatchewan Natural History Society *Newsletter* and *Blue Jay*, and who work for conservation in this part of the world have rented space which they can call home.

During our twenty-six years we have imposed on various people. We began our work in several homes in Yorkton, where this year we will return for our annual meeting. In that city, the *Blue Jay* was mimeographed in a home and the *Blue Jay* covers were coloured and addressed by hand. Some of the farsighted and enthusiastic naturalists involved in those earliest efforts are still active and strong supporters of our program today.

When the work became too heavy for the few people left in Yorkton, help was given by various institutions. At first, the mimeographing was done by the Museum of Natural History in Regina, but collaboration between people in two cities was difficult and publication of the magazine became irregular. It was at this time that people interested in the *Blue Jay* reorganized to form the provincial society. Mimeographing was then done at Regina College and groups of people gathered in the biology laboratory to collate, staple and address the *Blue Jay*. When Regina College became a university and moved into new quarters, some space for editorial files was provided on an already overcrowded new campus.

The boost which changed the *Blue Jay* from a mimeographed to a printed magazine came in 1951 when the Government of Saskatchewan ordered so many copies of one particular issue of the *Blue Jay* that mimeographing seemed impossible. Though we were barely able to pay for each issue, we continued from that time to print our magazine. For several years, starting in 1958 the Saskatchewan Government came to our aid with yearly grants which allowed us to give the *Blue Jay* to schools and to juniors at less than cost and enabled us to print special publications of real educational worth. Costs however, continue to rise and at present we receive no government support. The annual meeting will, therefore, consider raising the one dollar membership fee for schools and juniors. The constitution will also come before this year's annual meeting.

But our interests have always been broader than the mere provision of a place where naturalists could publish their observations. We began a bookshop so that people could extend their studies and further develop their interests in natural history. About half of our correspondence relates to this bookshop, but when an Ottawa supporter passing through recently asked to see the *Blue Jay* bookshop he was told that it was under Mr. Brazier's bed!

Obviously, there is much office work to be done and this prompts our decision to acquire our first simple work area. We initiate the project, of course, only on an experimental basis for it will cost some \$400 per year. Stated in a different way, at our current two dollar membership we would need 200 more members to defray this expense or an additional fifteen cents per year from present members. Certainly, it is not thought that all our work will be done in our one small home; each of us will continue to work where he can, the *Newsletter* will still be prepared in Saskatoon, and we will continue to meet out-of-doors as we did this year for the opening of the Maurice Street Memorial. However, now that we have a headquarters it is to be hoped that our society can operate more efficiently and can advance to new and better activities. For example, let us concentrate on the all-important problem of preserving natural areas. Please increase the volume of our correspondence by continuing to write in about areas which you think we should conserve.