

to limited growth, even to stability in many segments of national economies—a stability dictated by the dimensions of the earth?" We must find a way.

Harvey Molotch ("Santa Barbara: Oil in the Velvet Playground") provides a detailed account of the struggles of a group of Santa Barbara residents who tried to prevent the pollution of their beaches with oil. Their struggle to induce politicians to enforce pollution controls and their subsequent failure will be all too familiar to conservationists who have tried to plead their case against the combined interests of industry and government. This is one of the best articles in the collection.

Oil exploration and transport in the Arctic have been important subjects of recent debate in the conservation field. Barry Weisberg's article, "Raping Alaska," provides a review of the problem in Alaska. The writer itemizes damage already done to the tundra and speculates about the extent of damage to be caused by the construction of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline Systems (TAPS). Not mentioned is the fact that ecological studies to estimate the probable extent of the damage and to recommend procedures that will minimize the dangers are well underway, financed by TAPS. Whether such studies would have been undertaken without the kind of public pressure exemplified by Weisberg's article is another matter. One thing is clear. The United States, facing increasing shortages of petroleum, will develop and transport oil on the Alaskan North slope, regardless of the opposition of conservationists.

It only remains to attempt to ensure the best possible deal for the environment.

"California Water Plan" by Gene Marine is concerned with water shortages in over-populated and ever-expanding southern California. Real estate developers are a powerful lobby, and diversion of northern California rivers to provide water for the further growth of smog-choked Los Angeles seems inevitable. Lest this article seem divorced from the Canadian scene, the reader might review the proposed NAWAPA Plan for Continental Water Diversion (Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, 1967, vol. 23, no. 7, pp. 8-7). Part of the Nawapa Plan involves diversion to the United States through the Souris River. In Saskatchewan we face a problem which is similar to that of the California water shortage. Should we divert water from the Peace and Athabasca Rivers, thereby causing ecological damage, to sustain the growth of population in southern Saskatchewan, particularly Regina? Or would it be more sensible to encourage the industrial development of northern centres, where water is more abundant?

The final article in the collection, "Trouble in Paradise" by Sol Stern, deals with the difficulties encountered by a few California residents who are attempting to revert to a simpler rural life away from the polluted and crowded city.

Eco-Catastrophe is a collection worth reading. The interest of the book is enhanced by the lithographs and woodcuts of M. C. Escher.—D. H. Sheppard, Regina.

Letters and Notes

SUMMER AROUND SPRING CREEK

Last summer was one of the most enjoyable summers of my life, as I spent it exploring and studying the wildlife around Spring Creek. My study area is a mile section of the creek which flows just to the south of our house on Normandy Drive. This

section is located between Seventh Avenue and the Canadian National Railway overpass on the edge of the city.

After the spring runoff the shallower parts of the creek dry up, leaving a series of ponds which support a variety of wildlife. Two of the larger ponds are my main study areas.

Birds are plentiful around these ponds as reeds and willows provide good nesting places. Some of the bird species are: red-winged blackbird, yellow-headed blackbird, cowbird, horned lark, meadowlark, bobolink, killdeer and ducks.

Mammals include: ground squirrel, meadow-vole, mouse, rat, jack-rabbit, shrew and badger. Larger mammals such as deer and the porcupine may frequent the area as I have found their bodies, killed by passing trains, but I have never seen one alive near the ponds.

Reptiles are very uncommon, as kids catch garter-snakes, limiting their numbers in this area. Turtles probably live in the area although I have never seen any.

Amphibians are the most common vertebrates in the ponds, which include such familiar species as newts, salamanders, chorus frogs, cricket frogs, leopard frogs and bull frogs.

To explore the world beneath the pond's surface I use a long handled net with which I bring pond animals to the surface for study. Among the aquatic animals are stickle-back, snail, prawn, and insect larvae.

I hope to be able to study this area for many more years.—*Moray Lewis*, page 14, *Moose Jaw*.

THE BENNETT DAM

When the Bennett dam was started on the Peace River, I made myself unpopular around Fort St. John by predicting that

- (1) The displaced Indians of the Peace and Finlay rivers (who were self-sufficient) would have to go on welfare — which would destroy them;
- (2) The dam would lower the water level on the Mackenzie River system causing navigation difficulties, the drying up of the Delta marsh at Lake Athabasca, embarrassing reduction of water supplies to towns along the Peace, and a long-term problem of floating debris on the dam itself.

All these predictions made in 1959 have — *unfortunately* — come true! In addition, the lowering of water now seems to threaten the Whooping Crane breeding grounds. Let's hope the cranes will escape.

My son was up in the area last year and he tells me that the lake is so jammed with floating trees, etc., that you cannot put a boat into it. A number of moose and other carcasses were also floating about.

It is obvious that the Bennett Dam was constructed without an adequate study being made of the implications of the project.—*R. D. Symons*, *Silton*.

COMMENT FROM VICTORIA

Reading your editorial in the March 1971 *Blue Jay* caused me to send you the following comment.

The Victoria Natural History Society is starting a campaign to try and have the regulations concerning the giving of permits for killing birds tightened up. It is possible they will have a letter sent to the various wild life organizations, the Canadian and Provincial authorities, the Universities and the natural history societies to get their reaction. We are against experiments with birds (personally, I am also opposed to nest record schemes). A member of the British Museum puts it this way "Maybe it will be possible to bring Canada and the United States into line with more developed countries; otherwise the present random destruction of wild life will seriously affect their numbers. This [destruction] could not occur in Britain under our legislative acts." We in Canada have a long way to go.—*Albert R. Davidson*, *Victoria, B.C.*

REACTIONS TO COLLECTING

I enjoy reading the *Blue Jay* but one thing that irks me is that when a strange bird is sighted out of its normal habitat an attempt is made to "collect" it. I am referring to the article in the March 1971 *Blue Jay* — *Second Saskatchewan Record of the Ruff*, by J. F. Roy.

A Ruff was collected in Saskatchewan earlier by Frank Brazier and I wonder if it is standard procedure that when a new bird is sighted the country's leading naturalists and conservationists immediately shoot it? In the case of the Ruff in the Roy article it was identified by seven or eight bird experts. What further proof of its presence is needed? A stuffed bird in a museum does not prove where it was taken.

Another article I would refer to is by Clive Elliott, *Blue Jay*, March 1966, in which he mentions spending considerable time trying to kill the rare Poorwill during the nesting season. These birds are rare now. Why, therefore, do our naturalists try to make them rarer?

A few years ago I had an Indigo Bunting here in my shelterbelt. If I expected that personnel from the museum would try to collect it I would never report it. I feel that it could happen that these wanderers just could be the nucleus of a new breeding population in a new area.—*S. O. Jordheim*, White Bear, Saskatchewan.

THE RUFF IN SASKATCHEWAN

It was reported in the March issue of *The Blue Jay* that a Ruff had been seen near Saskatoon. This otherwise most interesting report was marred by a statement that an unsuccessful attempt was made to collect the bird. This was the second Saskatchewan record, the first having been shot in 1965. It must be presumed that an attempt will be made to shoot any further Ruffs that fly into the Province of Saskatchewan.

If this is the intention, it is reasonable to ask what is the purpose of shooting these birds. The Ruff is a species whose biology has been particularly well studied and documented in the past hundred years, especially in Holland, where it is illegal to shoot the species. It would be very difficult to make a case for shooting a Ruff in Saskatchewan on the grounds that somehow one was likely to contribute

new information concerning the biology of the species, and still more difficult to demonstrate that the killing of the birds was a necessary measure for supplying information necessary for conservation. If such a case cannot be very clearly defended, then the suspicion must be strong that the purpose of killing a Ruff is largely to satisfy a desire to possess the skin of a rare bird, a desire that must be roundly condemned.

Owing to very rigorous protection laws in Britain, where the Ruff is protected by special laws, the Ruff has recently established a nesting colony in southern England, a situation that would have been quite impossible if ornithologists and museums had been permitted or had even wished to kill any of these birds. Is it too much to hope that Saskatchewan ornithologists will curb their urge to shoot any rare bird that passes through their Province and will afford the Ruff the same welcome and protection it has had in Holland and in Britain? Perhaps the Ruff might one day respond by nesting in the Province; at present it seems it is in too much danger of being preyed upon by those who consider themselves ornithologists.—*J. B. Tatum*, Ph.D., M.B.O.U., Chairman, Ornithological Records Committee, Southern Vancouver Island, 416-3187 Shelbourne Street, Victoria, B.C.

BLUEBIRD HOUSES

Last March my two children and I put up 85 bluebird houses along the roads in this area. A good number of bluebirds passed through but none chose to stay.

During the last week of June we checked 76 of the houses, the remaining nine houses were checked in December. We found 53 with tree swallow nests, 18 with sparrow nests, 12 with part nests and only two with nothing. We were well pleased with the number of Tree Swallows raised but we would have liked to have had some bluebirds as well.—*John L. Murray*, Lyleton, Manitoba.

RUFFED GROUSE

In the last issue of the *Blue Jay* (March, 1971) there is a very good picture on page 18 identified as Spruce grouse. Wouldn't a closer look (breast and tail feathers) suggest that this bird is a Ruffed Grouse?

I find the *Blue Jay* interesting and informative. If, at any time, I could help with collecting or observing plants or animals, I would be pleased.—*H. Wolowski*, Box 418, Spiritwood, Sask.

Ed. Note: Mr. Wolowski is correct and I apologize to the photographer for using his picture as a filler and getting the wrong identification on it. I hope that others will not hesitate to comment if they disagree with material printed in the *Blue Jay*.

THE DOERS

In our December 1970 *Blue Jay* I was very pleased to note such a widespread effort by action groups all across Canada to do something about our environmental crisis.

Here is the good example of how one man not only became concerned and informed but also became a "doer".

Carl Kimball, besides being an active farmer and rancher near Rockglen, Saskatchewan, takes time to be well-informed about a large variety of subjects. He does not like to see wanton destruction of the natural habitat of our wildlife. While many were bulldozing brush and grass along the banks of the Poplar Creek which meanders through and near his land, Carl purchased bushels of Reed Canary-grass seed and scattered it along the edges of the creek for miles. Now", he declares, "this will grow and spread along the banks of the creeks and rivers all the way to the ocean, making cover for nesting water birds."

Who knows? Perhaps it will.—*E. Mattson*, Rockglen.

BRUCE TRAIL VISITED

On a lovely spring afternoon, April 19, 1971 when I drove with friends on country roads from St. Catharines to Hamilton, I several times crossed the famous Bruce Trail. Each time we crossed the trail we stopped to wander, admire the view from the escarpment and kneel to study and photograph such lovely spring flowers as the Bloodroot, Hepatica and Coltsfoot.



Hepatica, April 19, 1971

Bruce Trail is a lovely ribbon of 400 miles of beautiful Ontario scenery stretching from Niagara Falls to the Bruce Peninsula. Much of the trail goes through private property but owners and hikers alike appreciate the value of being outdoors in natural surroundings. As land becomes available for sale, the government plans to contribute three quarters of the purchase price in order to maintain the area in undeveloped form. The Bruce Trail Association, 33 Hardale Crescent, Hamilton, Ontario, is attempting to raise the remaining amount of money by calling for donations from interested individuals. Some of our readers might like to contribute to the cause of conservation in Ontario.—*George F. Ledingham*, Regina.

NEXT BLUE JAY

Please submit articles and photographs for the September *Blue Jay* before July 15 if possible.—*Ed.*



'Some day son, all this will be yours'

WHITE OWL CONSERVATION AWARD

The White Owl Conservation Award Committee invites applications from groups or individuals needing financial assistance for work directly related to the improvement of the environment. Grants from \$1000 to \$2500 will be distributed on a bi-monthly basis throughout 1971. The Committee will also decide on this year's winner of the \$10,000 White Owl Conservation Award. It is given annually to the organization or individual deemed to have contributed most towards the preservation of the Canadian environment and the public is invited to send in nominations.

Information on both the grants and the Award may be obtained by writing to: The White Owl Conservation Award Committee, 2015 Peel Street, 7th Floor Montreal 110, Quebec.

DDT

We all know that the Bald Eagle, the Prairie Falcon and other birds at the end of long food chains are in real difficulties and may become extinct if the amounts of pesticides in the environment cannot be reduced. Clive E. Goodwin in *Federation of Ontario Naturalists Newsletter*, 12: p12, Jan.-Feb., 1971, gives evidence that suggests that other birds may also be suffering from too much DDT and PCB. Five or six collapsed or dented Her-

ring Gull eggs were counted among 51 nests surveyed on Pigeon Island Kingston on June 10, 1970. In Prince Edward County only one Red-winged Blackbird nest out of 35 produced young.

IMPACT OF POPULATION GROWTH

Paul R. Ehrlich and John P. Holdren have written in the March 26, 1971 issue of *Science*, an article with the above title. The following sentence

om their conclusions may perhaps simulate you to give the question further study and consideration:

“Man’s record as a simplifier of ecosystems and plunderer of resources can be traced from his probable role in the extinction of many Pleistocene mammals, through the destructions of the soils of Mesopotamia by salination and erosion, to the deforestation of Europe in the Middle Ages and the American dustbowls of the 1930’s, to mention only some highlights Surely, then, we can anticipate that supplying food, fibre, and metals for a population even larger than today’s will have a profound (and destabilizing) effect on the global ecosystems under *any* set of technological assumptions Precisely because population is the most difficult and slowest to yield among the components of environmental deterioration, we must start on it at once. To ignore population today because the problem is a tough one is to commit ourselves to even gloomier prospects years hence, when most of the “easy” means to reduce per capita impact on the environment will have been exhausted. The desperate and repressive measures for population control which might be contemplated then are the reason in themselves to proceed with foresight, alacrity, and compassion today.”

NEST RECORDS SCHEME

A. J. Erskine (*The Can. Field-naturalist* 85:3-11, 1971) suggests that nest records may aid in following the effects of pollution on breeding birds. The effects would likely be most obvious with scarce birds near the ends of predator food chains where toxic chemicals are accumulated, and with water birds (see also Spotted Sandpiper article page 59) into whose habitats runoff washes the pollutants. Nesting success, of course, cannot be measured if there are no longer any nests to be reported. Erskine says that by encouraging people to look at birds and their nests with care and judgment we are stimulating public awareness of our natural environment

as something to be treasured Nest record cards may provide documentation acceptable to the legislators who must formulate the restrictions on man’s abuses of the environment. . . . Like man, birds depend on their environment, but only man can ensure that it survives.”

If you wish to contribute to the Prairie Nest Records Scheme write to H. W. R. Copland, Manitoba Museum of Man and Nature, 190 Rupert Ave., Winnipeg 2, Manitoba and ask for instructions and cards.

NATIONAL PARKS

A series of public hearings is being held across Canada to consider the Provisional Master Plans for the National Parks. The Saskatchewan hearings re Prince Albert National Park will be held on June 28 in the Saskatchewan Hotel in Regina and on June 30 in the Sheraton-Marlborough Hotel in Prince Albert. The hearings begin at 9 a.m.

Copies of the plan for Prince Albert National Park may be obtained for one dollar (money order or cheque payable to the Receiver General of Canada) from The Regional Director, National and Historic Parks Branch, Customs Building, Calgary, Alberta. Letters, briefs and requests to speak at the hearings should be mailed to the Secretary, Public Hearings Program, National and Historic Parks Branch, 400 Laurier Avenue West, Ottawa 4, Ontario.

If you agree with the objectives of the National Parks you should at least write to Ottawa and say that you agree with their policy on national parks. The policy of National Parks, in part, is as follows: “Objects of nature in National Parks are important parts of the national heritage and should be preserved unimpaired for the benefit, education and enjoyment of future generations.” This means that there must be wise use, and certain limitations on the use, of our parks by people *now*.

EARLY SPRING FLOWERS

In the March 1971 *Blue Jay* we showed two Fenton Vance photographs. We simply called them Moss Phlox and Crocus Anemone, names commonly accepted for flowers well-known all across the short-grass prairies.

We must apologize to readers outside the prairie region, however, that we did not give more information. One Edmonton reader, who did not give his name, made a Xerox of the page, crossed off the assigned names and inserted common and scientific names as follows: Moss Champion, *Silene acaule* and Windflower, *Pulsatilla vulgaris*. Plants with which our reader is familiar have appearances similar to ours and I realize that black-and-white photographs are not good for plant identification. But I want to make clear to our unnamed reader that he has wrongly identified both plants. Our illustrations are of a phlox, *Phlox hoodii*, common on dry hills, height only one to two inches and of Crocus Anemone, a Windflower, *Anemone patens wolfgangiana* (or *Pulsatilla ludoviciana* if you wish to subdivide the *Anemone* genus). At the same time, I wish to thank our reader for his interest in the matter.—*Editor*.

SCARLET TANAGER AT WEYBURN

On May 16, 1970 Farrell Hall and I caught sight of a red-breasted bird sitting at the top of a tree just before it took flight. The moment that I saw it in flight my immediate reaction was that it was a Scarlet Tanager, for the two striking features were its brilliant red body and the contrasting black wings and tail.

The next day I had several glimpses in tall trees on the grounds of the Saskatchewan Mental Hospital of distinctly red-bodied, black-winged birds which I presumed were Tanagers. Several Baltimore Orioles were also in the area that day, but they were clearly identifiable from any distance. Except for these two days, no other observation of Tanagers was made in the Weyburn area in 1970.—*Robert Kreba*, 144 Milne Street, Regina.

SWALLOWTAIL CATERPILLARS WANTED

Last September I obtained three caterpillars from Clanwilliam, Manitoba. They fed on parsnip. Two pupated but the third died. I put the pupae out to freeze and brought them into the house again after New Year's Day. In February they emerged as adults—a beautiful pair of Kahli Swallowtails. (*Papilio kahli*).

I am interested in raising some more swallowtail butterflies and would like the co-operation of *Blue Jay* readers. Please watch for caterpillars on plants such as dill, carrot, parsnip, parsley, caraway or celery. These will be most noticeable in late August and early September. They will be smooth caterpillars, green with black bands, or black and orange.

Please send caterpillars or report your find to Ronald Hooper, Box 205 Fort Qu'Appelle, Saskatchewan. I will help in the study of distribution and relationships of the Black, Kahli Gothic and Nitra Swallowtails.—*Ronald Hooper*, Fort Qu'Appelle.

THANK YOU

We, the Committee for Original Peoples Entitlements, wish to thank you for your contribution of \$50.00 to go toward the Banks Island efforts.

Because of the support of many of our southern friends, we have been able to have the Federal Government draw up a strict set of regulations which the Oil companies (Dimene and Elf Oil) have agreed to work under. The rules set down are the strictest there have ever been. The Companies have each filed a \$100,000.00 bond with the Federal government as proof they will behave on Banks. They must pay 850 dollars each month to Trappers who serve as inspectors.

Again thank you. We will put you on our mailing list for the monthly news letter, which will be published beginning December 1st.—*Agnes Semmler*, President COPE, Box 166 Inuvik, N.W.T.