

questioning, wondering, discovery, solving problems."

Although this book is written primarily for adults, I would highly recommend it to any young person who is considering taking up teaching or who is interested in outdoor education.

The author practises what the school preaches—the discovery method of learning, and we discover along with him how an outdoor education program is successfully organized and run.—Reviewed by *Joyce Deutscher*.

SASKATOON JUNIORS' BIRD HOUSE PROJECT

by **David V. Houston**, President, Saskatoon Junior Natural History Society

The Saskatoon Junior Natural History Society was formed in November, 1968 and we began building bluebird houses in January. All the materials were donated and Mr. Wm. Brucks precut some of the lumber for us. Following Lorne Scott's directions, the houses were 9½" high with outside measurements of 5½" by 5½", with a 1½" diameter hole and a backboard of 12". To avoid the expense of hinges, wood strips were nailed on the inside of each lid to make it fit snugly into the top of the box. With the lid on the box, small holes were drilled through the sides of the box into the wood strips. Shingle nails were then inserted to keep the lid from blowing off in the wind, yet allowing the lid to be removed whenever we wanted to check the contents of the box or clean it out.

During eight afternoons, 207 houses were constructed by a crew composed of Michael and Rod Bantjes, Jeff and Joan Besant, Ray Bisha, David and Kim Epp, Dave and Don Houston, Jeff Krolik, David Nowosad and Gordon and Tom Teed. Five afternoons in late March and early April were required to place the houses, two or three per mile, from south of Saskatoon to Simpson.

The tops blew off many boxes and at first we thought that the boxes had been vandalized, but we later

realized that the prairie wind was too strong for shingle nails! In fact, many farmers had been putting the tops back on, adding rocks on top to hold them down. During the year, we replaced the tops on 70 of our houses, now using two-inch nails. Twenty-five were knocked down by cows, farm operations or vandals.

We feel that the project has been very successful because of the high rate of occupancy of desirable species (3 pairs of Mountain Bluebirds and 128 pairs of Tree Swallows) and the very low rate of unwanted species (1 House Sparrow and 2 House Wren nests and no Starlings). Both wrens were in boxes on posts in shubbery.

Next year we hope to put boxes all the way to join up with Lorne Scott of Indian Head. Since Lorne has already joined with Jack Lane of Brandon, this would mean a trail 400 miles long! Although we had only three pairs of Mountain Bluebirds this year, we hope their numbers will increase as the years go by.



Saskatoon Star-Phoenix Photo
Locating a blue bird house,
southeast of Saskatoon, 1969.