

services for the supply of the necessary inputs. Some local services will be needed to provide some local non-agricultural employment, thereby helping to stem the flight from the area to large urban centres. An educational program including services to family life is also intended. The major requirement of technical personnel will be provided by the host country which is showing enthusiasm by selecting only truly elite professionals to execute the test program. Two very well qualified Canadians will be attached to the project. If the research being undertaken in this project can achieve its objectives, many millions may be ultimately benefited.

The International Development Research Centre is intended to do research that will contribute to improvement of living conditions, especially in developing countries. Most people in such countries are in rural parts and consequently the major focus of IDRC programs is there.

However, urban problems need research too and the Centre is supporting, in part, investigations in eight major cities of less developed countries where acute problems exist as a result of migration from rural areas. Because human resources, in the form of qualified professionals with realistic practical experience, are fundamental to improvement and to ultimate self-sufficiency in the new nations, it is Centre policy to seek and encourage research projects where there is a substantial (and preferably dominant) role on the part of local scientists and professionals.

The establishment of the International Development Research Centre, the first institution of its kind, has attracted a good deal of international interest. It is to be hoped, and indeed it is expected, that this pioneering Canadian creation will make significant contributions to improvement of the human condition in the next decade.

## JOHN LANE HONOURED

by **Elizabeth Cruickshank**, 2329 Athol Street, Regina

John Lane received the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws at the 1971 spring Convocation of Brandon University.

Members of the Saskatchewan Natural History Society will remember meeting John Lane at his first summer meeting at Moose Mountain Provincial Park in 1959, and at subsequent gatherings. As one of the persons present at the Moose Mountain meet, I have happy personal recollections of an expedition led by Jack Lane along a roadway being cleared. As we stepped over felled tree trunks, Jack's conversation with a skulking wee warbler, with Jack imitating its resigned "toodle - oodle - oo" turtling sounds, brought the curious black-hooded, crepe-breasted Mourning Warbler into sight—a first for his companions. Along the way a Warbling Vireo sang from a nest atop the tallest poplar. "He sings while he's baby-sitting." Such comments and actions made any

jaunt with Jack Lane a jolly and informative one.

Fortunate, too, to be a passenger in the Lanes' big yellow station wagon. Skirting the high narrow rocky road along Scissor's Creek at the Rocanville meet, at each rise along the way, our exuberant driver burst into poetry or song. "Up the airy mountain — down the rushy glen" — Or when the road was less interesting and conversation at a standstill, tuneful humming of the classical familiars or some of his own poetic compositions delighted his fellow travellers.

And the historical information that Jack offered his companions! Not just the items from the Historic Sites literature but things like "Nora's grandmother made all the bread for Fort Ellice fortress in the troubled times of its early days". Nora is his understanding helpmate and her grandparents had farmed near the famous fort.

As a guide in Seton's country, Jack



John Lane with some  
Brandon Junior Naturalists

Lane, with his smile and enthusiasm for any challenge presenting itself, made a pilgrimage there never to be forgotten.

But Jack Lane is best known to *Blue Jay* readers for his efforts to bring back the bluebirds to the prairie, where there were none in 1959, by establishing nest box lines, 3000 boxes plus to date. Dedicated young persons who assisted in the project begun in Brandon have not only received training and inspiration from their leader, but a greater awareness and appreciation of our natural heritage.

Dr. Lane's field work, as naturalist and conservationist, has been documented in the *Blue Jay*, the *Canadian Field-Naturalist* and Bent's *Life Histories* (to which he contributed the history of the Baird's Sparrow). A

bonus to his nest box line activities was the discovery of the first proven instance of hybridism between Eastern and Mountain Bluebirds. As a result he was invited to deliver a paper on his findings at the A.O.U. meeting in Toronto in 1968. Later he was accepted as a member of that professional association.

The recently-retired railroader is an accomplished nature photographer and has received credits for assisting in the production of films and recording of songs of prairie birdlife. He has some other firsts to his credit: first to spot the Cattle Egret in western Canada and first to find nests of the Yellow Rail in Manitoba.

For years he has worked in a voluntary capacity for the B. J. Hale's Museum of Natural History at Brandon University. In January this year he was appointed officially its Curator.

In June the Shikar-Safari Club International presented him with a certificate at Clear Lake naming him "Conservationist of the Year." This club consists of 200 members from all over the world who are sportsmen and game conservationists.

Offering congratulations to Dr. Lane on his many achievements we can all share in the satisfaction that another of our members has received public recognition for his devoted efforts to preserve the environment. Our good wishes and hopes for continued success go to one who has made so rich a contribution to his province and to Western Canada.

## Letters and Notes

### TWELVE-YEAR-OLD GROSBEAK PET

My account begins on the Labour Day weekend of 1959. We were returning from a camping trip to a northern lake, and had just stopped our car in our driveway when the children, always the first ones out, heard a commotion in our corn patch. A closer investigation showed the cause to be a

female Rose-breasted Grosbeak with a cat in hot pursuit. We chased away the cat and upon capturing the bird found she had a broken wing. We bandaged the wing and placed her in a large cardboard box for the night. Next day, she showed interest in food and picked at lettuce leaves and budgie seed.

In the following months "Rosy", as we had by now named her, became a real pet. She would eat anything,