



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,

honey and chocolate being but a few of her delights. We had found it impossible to keep her wing bandage on, and, as a result, her wing did not heal correctly. She learned to fly again, but only short distances, and seemed to feel more secure in the cage we had made for her. She would fly into a tree for awhile, but always returned to the cage. Even though we often left the cage door open, she rarely ventured out. During the first few years she became very restless in the spring and fall, especially during the night, and this restlessness we attributed to the migration instinct.

We have a cottage north of Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, and our trips there would see quite a menagerie being loaded into our car: One bird and the girls' two pet rabbits. Our grosbeak learned to twitter cheerily to the sound of a boiling kettle or the hum of the vacuum cleaner. She became very wise, and the sound of a fly-swatter made her most excited, for she knew the result was a tasty fly for her.

We have moved twice since we found her—once to Medicine Hat, Alberta, and then to Dunnville, Ontario. Our bird has moved with us. Our last 2300 mile trek I believe she actually enjoyed because of the extra attention she got. She would sit in her cage and sing while we were travelling.

Now it is May, 1971 and we still have as a resident one female Rose-breasted Grosbeak, whose ripe old age of 12 we believe must be pretty close to a record. We have enjoyed her, and hope that the extension of her life has offset some of the unhappiness of captivity.—*W. Trevor Shepstone*, 114 Kneider Ave., Dunnville.

AN ENCOUNTER WITH A BAT

On June 14 of this year my father found a bat in the T.C.P.L. compressor station while working. I was at school at the time but when I got home at four, mother showed it to me. We decided to put it in the small inside cage of my guinea pigs. As I opened

the box it was in, I heard a snapping or clicking sound. We figured out that this was done by the bat's teeth hitting together. It had about a foot wingspan. As I got near the clicking noise started again. We decided that since it didn't look too good and was more than likely scared we had better take it out of the cage. We put it out on the grass, left it alone and went back to work. About fifteen minutes later we came for a peek but it was gone. At least I know what a bat looks like now.—*Jim Elliott* (Junior Naturalist), Box 550, Grenfell.

PLEA FOR PROTECTION OF RAPTORIAL BIRDS

by *Glen A. Fox*, 65 Grange Street, Guelph, Ontario

On March 10, 1971 "a bill to extend to hawks and owls the protection now accorded to Bald and Golden Eagles" was introduced in the House of Representatives of the United States Congress.

What does this mean in terms of the plight of the Peregrine Falcon in North America? First, if passed, it will pressure the Canadian government to follow suit with some form of protective legislation. Canada has within her boundaries the bulk of breeding Peregrines and other endangered raptors. Second, the bill in its present form would make private ownership of hawks and owls illegal in 20 to 30 years, and falconry is not provided for within the bill.

What is wrong with such legislation? I recently prepared a proposal for the protection and management of birds of prey in Canada for a university course in Wildlife Management. What I proposed brought mixed reactions from classmates, conservationists, and professional biologists. Since it was written, I have read similar proposals by others (Nelson, 1970; Smith, 1970; Cade, 1971; and Smith and Halliday, 1971). Because concerned individuals and societies will have some opportunity to direct the form which protective legislation will



Photo by Glen Fox

Pigeon Hawk

take in Canada, I feel it is in order to outline what my proposals are.

There is no doubt that raptorial birds should be protected on a national and, if possible, international basis. Protection or management—that is the key question. The bill before the U.S. Congress is an example of the “complete protection movement.” The other point of view is that in our chemically contaminated environment these birds will have little chance of recovery even if given total protection. Management is the key—management that provides protection, but which at the same time provides for a controlled harvest of nestlings for captive breeding stock *and* for falconry purposes.

Many will immediately see the need for maintaining captive breeding stocks and the usefulness of these birds in producing birds for reintroduction programs. But, why falconry? Falconers as a group have provided more knowledge about raptorial birds than any other group and have been very active in public education programs. This is not accomplished without access to birds for such uses. A very small, radical minority of falconers put the sport of falconry before the bird, and this minority too must be provided with a legal means of taking birds or they certainly will go to extremes in taking their illegal

harvest; in so doing, they will defeat all other management efforts.

What can falconry do for the Peregrine and other endangered raptors? First, falconers will be able to provide stock for reintroductions. Second, their trained birds will be frequently used in effective public education programs—without which protective legislation and management efforts will be to no avail. Recently, at the Canadian National Sportsman’s Show in Toronto, some 5000 people were informed and many “converted” by such an educational display—many seeing a Peregrine for the first time. Such exposure is the only way the public will gain that respect and concern which is necessary to ensure the preservation of wildlife. Third, and probably most important, falconry can be used as a management technique for increasing the survival rate of immature falcons. If a controlled number of nestling falcons were removed from various segments of the population each year for falconry purposes, with the provision that they *must* be released at the end of their second winter, in time for the spring migration, the wild populations would benefit from this addition to their breeding stock.

How? It has been estimated for the Peregrine Falcon and Prairie Falcon that of every 100 young fledged, only 34 survive to the end of their second year, or to breeding age. The remaining 66 might be considered as harvestable surplus which may be used for falconry. Survival in the hands of competent falconers is in the order of at least 70 percent. Thus, by holding falcons for falconry purposes during their first two years of life, we can increase survival to breeding age of any cohort to over 50 percent, with the birds returned to the wild state with very low pollutant-loads and thus far more likely to produce offspring.

Protective legislation should have the following objectives:

1. To protect all raptorial birds in Canada, on a year-round basis, from all forms of destruction by man or his agents.

2. To conduct a nation-wide inventory of raptor populations and their productivity, and to initiate a central repository for information concerning these populations, available to all management agencies.
3. To develop and maintain captive, reproducing populations for reintroduction.
4. To legalize and control the sport of falconry, recognizing it as a valuable field sport and utilizing it as a management tool.
5. To promote greater public understanding of the status and value of raptors, so that it will be generally recognized that it is important to enforce protective legislation strictly, and to introduce management of rare species.

As Cade (1971) so aptly put it, "in any case, protection, based on reason rather than hysteria, and propagation, based on scientific methods rather than trial and error, should go hand in hand as the two chief measures for promoting the survival of the Peregrine and other birds of prey."

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EAGLES POISONED

The U.S. Department of the Interior, News Release for June 19, 1971, explains a recent case of poisoning of 22 Bald and Golden Eagles in Wyoming. Ironically, the five men arrested in connection with the case were not charged with poisoning eagles but with hunting out of season. Several antelope carcasses had been baited with thallium sulfate and pre-

sumably set out for coyotes; and it was the use of the antelope (killed out of season) which allowed the authorities to prosecute. If domestic animals had been baited no charge could have been laid nor would the poisoning of the eagles which in this particular connection was unintentional have constituted a felony.

Obviously laws in U.S.A. and in Canada must be changed so that endangered species and all wildlife will receive more protection.



Photo by Al Grass

Bald Eagle

COYOTES AND 1080

Several Canadians have written letters this year protesting the use of poison to kill coyotes or other animals. As an example of this protest we reprint Dr. R. T. Ogilvie's letter which appeared in *The Calgary Field Naturalist*, June, 1971.

"The use of Compound 1080 for the control of coyotes in southwestern Alberta is of serious concern to naturalists.

Compound 1080 (sodium fluoroacetate) is extremely toxic; its lethal effects on animals is very great. In addition it has high stability: it retains its poisonous properties for a very long time. Because of this high

toxicity many other kinds of animals are poisoned besides the animal for which its use was intended. Moreover, it is known to cause secondary poisoning in many kinds of animals as a result of them feeding on the animals which have been killed by the poisoned bait. Dogs, and various birds, rodents, carnivores, carrion eaters and scavengers, have all been killed from the use of 1080 in poisoned bait. Because of its lack of specificity and the consequent danger to other wildlife, its use cannot be condoned for "pest" control.

There is another aspect which is to be seriously criticized: the practice of killing native predators. Ecologists know that predator control is very disruptive to the natural balance within the carnivore-herbivore-plant food chain. The reduction of a predator such as the coyote results in its normal prey *not* being controlled. The natural prey of the coyote such as mice, voles, ground squirrels, rodents, certain birds, and even insects, will increase when the predator is reduced or eliminated.

Because of the high toxicity and stability and the lack of specificity, the use of Compound 1080 for pest control is to be severely criticised: its use should not be permitted. And the entire question of predator control must be re-considered in the light of modern knowledge of the ecological relationships in food chains."

ECOLOGICAL RESERVES

The province of British Columbia leads, in Canada, in the setting aside and guaranteeing of protection to a number of diverse natural areas. Though many individuals have been active in forming the entire programme, it is Dr. V. Krajina, ecologist, University of British Columbia and member of the International Biological Programme (IBP-CT) who has convinced the provincial government that certain limited areas should be preserved in as natural a state as possible.

The Honourable R. G. Williston, Minister of Lands, Forests, and Water Resources also deserves commendation for introducing the *Ecological Reserves Act* during the 1971 Session of the British Columbia Legislature. The act recognizes that British Columbia has a wide variety of climate and topography and that it is highly desirable to reserve areas of distinctive ecosystems for present and future study. The act which is now law resolves to select and preserve 100 areas by the end of the year 1975.

On May 6, 1971, the Government approved 27 ecological reserves. These areas are not to be used as recreational areas; rather, the flora and fauna within them will be completely protected. Six of the ecological reserves so far designated are in Provincial Parks, where they are classed as nature conservancy areas.

It is to be hoped that other provincial governments will follow the example of British Columbia and set aside ecological reserves to supplement provincial and national parks and wilderness areas. Unique habitats and the genetic diversity of the organisms living within them must be preserved as an essential safeguard for the future.

NATIONAL GRASSLAND PARK

Dr. R. T. Ogilvie, President of the Calgary Field Naturalists Society recently sent the following letter to the Honourable Jean Chrétien, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. The letter is printed in the June, 1971, *The Calgary Field Naturalist* and we reprint it here because there is an active expansion of National Parks (see article by Hon. J. Chrétien, in *Park News*, March, 1971) and eventually there will be a grassland park in Canada.

"The Calgary Field Naturalists' Society is actively concerned with land conservation, and to this end is interested in the present and future status of the Department of Defense Suffield

Experimental Range in southeastern Alberta.

The Suffield Range is one of the largest remaining areas of native grassland in western Canada. It is of immense biological and ecological value because it contains all of the original communities of native plants and animals. Therefore, it is of critical importance that this unique area of prairie ecosystems be preserved, and we are concerned that this should be done if and when the Department of National Defense tenure of the land is terminated. If at that time this land is used for livestock grazing or cultivated for grain or irrigation farming, it would be an irreparable loss to the ecological heritage of the people of Canada.

We wish to recommend that this area be given strong consideration as a Prairie National Park, as a means of preserving its total ecology. We would urge that negotiations be initiated for the transfer of this land to your department, for the purpose of establishing it as a National Park."

MAN AND THE BIOSPHERE

The General Conference of Unesco has launched a long-term inter-governmental and interdisciplinary program on Man and the Biosphere. The substance of the program, which will be supervised by the International Coordinating Council, is described in a Unesco document (16 C 78). Canada has agreed to participate in the program and it is hoped that the program will be actively operational after the Stockholm Conference in 1972 when 130 nations will meet in the first global conference to translate environmental concern into action.

The Steering Committee for MAB in Canada has suggested a number of major projects which, it is hoped, will receive real co-operation among social, natural and physical scientists in governments, universities, industries and other organizations. The number of Canadian projects is to be limited and these should deal with problems of

land and water management and methods of preserving, improving and maintaining a desirable human environment.

Project proposals may be submitted to Dr. W. J. Turnock, Secretary for the Steering Committee for MAB in Canada (Dr. Turnock, Secretariat for Science Policy and Technology, Privy Council Office, Ottawa K1A0A3). There are 31 proposed research themes and all deal with the natural environment or ways in which the activities of man alter the environment. Two themes under the general heading of conservation and protection are of special interest to members of natural history societies. These are "Global network of protected areas" and "conservation of wild species."

The Unesco document (16 C 78), commenting on the need for a worldwide network of protected areas, emphasizes that existing national parks represent only a small part of the ecosystems of the world. Many countries have inadequate resources for the setting aside and protection of natural areas. Indeed, most countries have not realized the aesthetic, cultural, educational and economic importance of natural areas and as a result have not made adequate plans for their protection. Hopefully some direction and assistance for immediate action will be given by the Man and the Biosphere Program.

The Unesco document emphasizes that "it is important that the widest possible diversity of plant and animal species be maintained (1) for the ecological health and continued functioning of the biosphere; (2) for [their] educational, scientific and recreational values; (3) for direct use as natural resources; and (4) because we are as yet unaware of the long-term importance of most of these species to man's well-being and survival."

It is obvious that an objective of this nature is of vital concern to all of us. Individually we can do something by writing letters and by talking to others about the importance of such an aim. As a society we should be able to propose and carry out an MAB pro-

ject but the number of projects is limited. We should have one Canadian natural history society which speaks for all naturalists in Canada. The Canadian Nature Federation promises to be such a national organization. Let us support it and acquire a national voice and at the same time contribute to international natural history by carrying out worthwhile conservation projects.

COMMENTS ON THE EFFECTS OF THE BENNETT DAM

The nature of *The Blue Jay* magazine makes it seem imperative to correct impressions left by a letter in the June, 1971, issue, headed "Bennett Dam." I have reason to believe that the critical conclusion arrived at by Mr. Symons was based on surmise and insufficient evidence.

Depending on the time when the informant visited the dam, in 1970, the observation on floating logs and debris was undoubtedly true. All reservoirs behind all dams experience this. In the case of the Bennett Dam, clearance of the future Lake Williston basin was projected and contracted for, and an enormous automated sawmill at Mackenzie was built to take care of the salvageable timber. The building of the dam proceeded with such speed that the clearing job was not completed. The contractor also had difficulties. The only way in which the basin could have been completely denuded was to burn it and, hopefully, keep the fire from spreading. The cries of anguish at that waste would have been extreme. In that situation, the lake would have been clogged with unsalvageable burned logs and ash.

Besides, nature took a hand. The coffer dam and diversion tunnels were built to contain the highest recorded water-flow. In the spring of 1965, the greatest high water in history completely filled the reservoir and all but topped the coffer dam which had been raised a quarter as high again in frantic haste to avoid its being swept away. In spite of all the water that was im-

pounded, the tributaries of the Peace between the dam and Taylor (only fifty miles downstream) contributed to phenomenal high water under the Peace River bridge there.

Too many people, even local residents, are unfamiliar with the river system. The news media do not inform them that the Finlay and Parsnip rivers are not the only tributaries of the Peace that affect the Athabasca delta. A map of the Peace River drainage basin shows that below the dam nine major tributaries enter from the North. Eleven enter from the south side delivering water from the Rocky mountain area near Mt. Robson.

Flow of all these tributaries depends on four things: (a) snow pack in the mountains; (b) and (c) hot weather and/or heavy rains in June to bring the snowpack down suddenly; (d) annual precipitation affecting the amount of water the soil can absorb.

Furthermore, ask "What does the Peace River empty into?" and nine out of ten people, in my experience, will answer "Lake Athabasca", and many will add, in tone or word, "of course!" Any map will show that this is untrue: the Peace joins the Rocher River which drains Lake Athabasca to form the Slave River some miles downstream from the lake. It is true that the marshy conditions in the area *at times* make it difficult to see the situation. William Fletcher Bredin, a long-time trader and river-transportation man, with sufficient competence to be called before a Select Committee of the Senate inquiring into the resources of the Mackenzie, commented on this in an interview recorded in the publication *Alberta Historical Review* (Summer 1971). In his reminiscences, speaking of the river which drains Lake Athabasca into the Slave river, he considered it noteworthy that "at another time when the Peace River was higher than Lake Athabasca, I came through this river when there was a reverse current." This shows that the combination of circumstances referred to in the preceding paragraph *occasionally* contributes Peace River water to Lake Athabasca.

According to my reading on the subject, confirmed by an elderly Dawson Creek resident who lived and trapped at Chipewyan for many years, what has happened periodically, but not yearly, is this: if a high flood peak of the Peace arrives just before or simultaneously with a similar flood peak from the Athabasca, the current of the Peace acts as a sort of hydraulic ram, holding the Athabasca back and flooding the marshes. In the area, the basement or bed rock comes to the surface, deeply gouged and packed by glaciers. Once filled, these undrained marshes tend to remain waterfilled if replenished by normal rainfall. Many times in the past, my informant says, the marshes have dried up, only to be flooded again.

For the last three years the whole drainage basin has been abnormally dry. Snowpack has been scanty. The Athabasca and Smoky Rivers have been low. The Bennett Dam has not produced the drought.

In this summer of 1971 extremely prolonged and heavy rains deluged the Peace drainage basin. Suddenly the news media carried daily, almost hourly, bulletins about the *floods* around Lesser Slave Lake which drains into the Athabasca River. As these notes are being written (early August, 1971), it is announced that the peaks of the Peace and Athabasca will arrive at the delta region simultaneously. The marshes are going to be flooded, yet the Peace above Taylor was not in flood because it was controlled by the dam. Had the reservoir been drained when certain people were demanding it, the marshes would not have been flooded, unless the Athabasca River co-operated!

I have also observed the débris above the Bennett Dam. In the spring of 1970 a great amount of débris had accumulated. By September enough salvageable logs had been conveyed to the mill at Mackenzie to cut 900,000,000 board feet of saleable lumber. Friends of ours had put their motor boat in above the dam and navigated it without incident as far as former Finlay Forks. Deadfall from the

tributary streams, in wooded country, will continue every spring, naturally.

Symons' comment on the existence of "embarrassing reductions in water supplies to towns along the Peace" is misleading because there is only one Peace River Town. As it is downstream from the confluence of the large Smoky River with the Peace, its water supply is not controlled solely by the dam. When a shortage did occur, all the down-stream tributaries we mentioned before were phenomenally low as the result of prolonged drought. That these tributaries alone can cause embarrassing *highwater* conditions was demonstrated in summer 1971 when the Clayhurst ferry north of Dawson Creek, and comparatively near the dam, had to be taken out for an extended period.

Another point which was not mentioned in *The Blue Jay* article has been belaboured by the news media: the economic status of the trappers and métis of the delta. Nobody mentions the fact that all trapping-based economy is depressed because of the poor market for furs.

It might be interesting to note that once in the memory of man the Peace River ran dry, leaving men in a canoe stranded in what had been mid-channel. This was reported in J. G. McGregor's book *Land of Twelve-Foot Davis* and happened decades before the construction of the Bennett Dam.

The writer feels that lack of information and hastily drawn conclusions do a great deal of harm to the cause of pollution and environmental control. It is important to weigh all factors before judging by appearances and incomplete reports.—*Dorthea Horton Calverley*, Dawson Creek, B.C.

Editor's Note: Mrs. Calverley, a long-time *Blue Jay* subscriber, is an outdoor enthusiast and a strong conservationist. She mourns the loss of certain beauty spots, e.g. the head of the Peace River Canyon, but she feels that we must be fair in assessing the effect of the Bennett Dam on the environment. She has lived in the Dawson Creek area since 1934 and has been a regular visitor to Hudson's

Hope. In an accompanying letter she commends Mr. Symons for his concern, for she knows him as a respected former resident of the area.

NATURAL MORTALITY AMONG CLIFF SWALLOWS

At Peace River, Alberta, during the evening of July 25, 1966, James Bartonek, David Trauger and I noticed some unusual activity in a breeding colony of Cliff Swallows (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*). These birds were nesting under a bridge across a small creek just south of the business district. They were calling excitedly and milling over mud flats that had recently been exposed along the creek bottom. Closer inspection revealed about 40 of the swallows stranded in the sticky mud. Many were already dead, apparently succumbing because of exhaustion and exposure. Wing marks indicated that several of the birds had struggled for a distance of at least 5 feet across the mud while attempting to free themselves. We rescued several of the stranded birds by washing off the mud and drying them. When released, the birds appeared to fly normally.—*Harold Kantrud*, Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center, Jamestown, North Dakota.

LATE NESTING BARN SWALLOW

On September 9, 1967, a pair of Barn Swallows were noted constructing a nest inside a granary four miles south of Raymore, Saskatchewan. On September 15 when the nest was checked, it contained three eggs which were being incubated.

The adults were seen carrying food to the nest on October 2 and upon checking it again three young, which were already several days old, were found. The young fledged on October 17, and were observed flying about the farmyard until October 19 when both adults and juveniles disappeared and were not noted again.

This nest record is over a month later than any other nest record which I have for this area. The unusually warm weather which occurred throughout the month of September may have accounted for such an extremely late nesting.—*Wayne C. Harris*, Box 93, Raymore.

PURPLE MARTIN STUDY

Since the Purple Martin now nests almost exclusively in man-made bird houses we can easily observe it and assess some of the effects that man has on the environment. A long-term study of population size of the bird, for instance, will be a valuable part of any such attempted assessment. A study of the Purple Martin will also help to answer certain other questions about the bird and its relationship with its nest-hole competitors. If you have Purple Martins and if you wish to receive the annual summary of the findings of the study, write to Dr. J. A. Jackson, Department of Zoology, Mississippi State University, State College, Ms. 39762.

DELTA

Early in 1971 Robert Winthrop, President, North American Wildlife Foundation, announced that Dr. Robert E. Jones of the University of Delaware, had been selected to succeed Dr. H. Albert Hochbaum as the director of the Delta Waterfowl Research Station. Dr. Jones was to assume responsibility for the Delta programme on May 1, 1971. Inquiries concerning the Station's research, graduate training and other activities may be sent to Dr. Jones, Delta Waterfowl Research Station, Portage la Prairie, Manitoba.

NIKON PHOTO CONTEST

The third annual international Nikon Photo Contest is open to all owners of Nikon Cameras. Each participant may submit up to five black and white prints and five color prints or slides. Unmounted prints must

range in size from 8"x10" to 11"x14". Any subject will qualify for entry. Entry forms may be obtained from your Nikon dealer and entries must be submitted before October 31, 1971.

ALBERTA PICTURES

Two fine exhibitions were officially opened June 20, 1971, in the Provincial Museum and Archives of Alberta, Edmonton, by Dr. Walter Trost, Chairman of the Environment Conservation Authority. The opening of these exhibits at this time gave botanists who were attending the joint inter-disciplinary meetings of the Canadian Botanical Association and the American Institute of Biological Sciences an additional incentive to visit the museum.

One exhibit was a selection of excellent photographs by Dr. Cyril Hampson which gave a vivid impression of the beauty of Alberta's natural heritage. (Readers of the *Blue Jay* will remember Cy Hampson photos. Look, for example, at the June 1959 issue.)

The other exhibit featured Annora Brown watercolor paintings of native Alberta plants. The paintings on display are part of the collection of 200 painted by Annora Brown for the Glenbow Alberta Institute, Calgary. (Again, readers may remember the review of Annora Brown's book *Old Man's Garden* which was printed in the *Blue Jay*, June 1954.)

We enjoyed these two fine exhibits June 24, 1971, and I am sure that many Edmonton residents and tourists have marvelled at the beauty captured in each picture.—George F. Ledingham, Regina.

ORNITHOLOGICAL CONGRESS

The XVI International Ornithological Congress will be held, August 12-17, 1974, in Canberra, Australia. Further information about major and minor excursions or about scientific sessions or exhibits may be obtained from Dr. H. J. Frith, Secretary-General of the Congress, P.O. Box 84, Lyneham, Australia, 2602.

NEXT BLUE JAY

Please submit articles and photographs for the December, 1971, *Blue Jay* before October 15 if possible.—Ed.

WILDCAT HILL WILDERNESS AREA VISITED

The Regina Natural History Society commenced its 1971 summer field trips with a Victoria Day weekend trip in the Wildcat Hill Wilderness Area. We Regina naturalists were joined by naturalists from Moose Jaw and Saskatoon, and were especially happy to have Gordon Silversides, President of the Saskatchewan Natural History Society, with us. Altogether there were 12 cars and about 40 people on this outing. For most, it was the first visit to the area since the creation of the Wildcat Hill Wilderness Area.

Base camp was established at the Department of Natural Resources' Fir River Cabin. Here there was a large grassy area for trailers and for camping. Each group made its own way to this point, and was free to come and go as it pleased.

During the weekend we drove to the Red Earth Indian Reserve located on an island where there are many large elm trees. The Indians there have log cabins and iron pots suspended from tripods over log fires. Anthropologist Meyer showed us the cemetery (with graves decorated with flowers and ribbons), cultivated rice fields and various other points of interest. We also went to visit Lloyd Stonehouse, a trapper who has lived on the edge of the hills for over 30 years; we enjoyed his anecdotes about grizzly bears and cougars.

On Sunday we drove over the new Shoal Lake Road which now completes the ring road around the Pasquia Hills. From this road above the Cumberland Marsh the hills rise some 1800 feet. On the sandy shoulders of the road we saw the tracks of wolf, deer, moose, coyote, mink and black bear. We made numerous stops along the way and left the road to hike on the

Alaxawie Nature Trail. The next day we visited the Pasquia Regional Park and also dropped in for a word with Joe Fournier who has a museum of his own. Fournier, incidentally, is the man who supplied the excellent cougar and moose specimens displayed in the Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History in Regina.

Throughout the weekend the weather was perfect and we enjoyed the sound of chickadees on every side and the sight of light green aspen, dark spruce and colorful flowers. The birders re-

corded many birds which are listed elsewhere (see p. 130 this *Blue Jay*).

Three weeks later when I visited Lobstick Fire Tower in the northeast part of the Pasquia Hills, I approached the cabin at dusk and heard the whip-poor-will. The bird hovered at chest height facing me and occasionally sat on a fence post. This seldom reported bird seems to have found a home in Saskatchewan's Wildcat Hill Wilderness Area.—*Thomas White*, Regina.

SASKATCHEWAN NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

ANNUAL MEETING, October 15-16, 1971

The 1971 Annual Meeting of the Saskatchewan Natural History Society will be held on October 15 and 16 in Moose Jaw. Hosts for the meeting will be the Moose Jaw Natural History Society with Carl Ellis, President.

REGISTRATION: Friday evening, October 15. Art Museum (next to the library on Athabasca Street East). Registration fee — \$1.00.

BUSINESS AND PROGRAMME SESSIONS: Saturday morning and afternoon, October 16, Art Museum. In addition to the regular business and programme, the Board of Directors will be asking members to consider what the Society's role should be in the newly-formed Canadian Nature Federation, and it is hoped that someone from the Federation can address the meeting.

ANNUAL BANQUET AND ADDRESS: The dinner will be held in the Hall at the Co-operative Store, 500 First Avenue N.W. (Smorgasbord tickets—\$3.00). Guest speaker will be **Richard Fyfe**, Canadian Wildlife Service, Edmonton.

RESOLUTIONS: The Resolutions Chairman J. Wedgwood would appreciate any serious thought you can give to resolutions to be presented at the meeting. Write or telephone him if possible before the meeting at 610 Leslie Avenue, Saskatoon.

NOMINATIONS: Nominations for elected positions on the Board of Directors should be submitted to the Nominations Chairman, Margaret Belcher, 2601 Winnipeg Street, Regina.

FURTHER INFORMATION: Available from Carl Ellis, President M.J.N.H.S., 820 Valley View Drive, Moose Jaw, or Miss Patricia Kern, Corresponding Secretary, S.N.H.S., 1053 Chestnut Avenue, Moose Jaw.