

# LOOKING BACK

## At Year I

Now that Volume 31 has been produced, it may be interesting to look back on the last 256 pages of *blue jay* from a people point of view.

First of all, there were about 100 contributors of articles, notes, letters, etc. Without the immense number of man-hours that they put into approximately 120 published items, there would have been no *blue jay*. As it was, those who read most of the items submitted for accuracy, clarity and the possibility of adding pertinent information had their hands full — Vern Harms, Merv Atton and, particularly, Bob Nero who had the heaviest load because he reviewed the bird and mammal articles. Mark Abley and Ed Driver have also helped in reading manuscripts.

After review, the material goes to the printers, Midwest Litho, Saskatoon, and here Charlie Martin and Harold Mitchelmore have made many good suggestions and shown great patience. After the preliminary printing (proofs or galleys), our proofreaders take over — Molly Denson, Bill Richards, Muriel Galloway and Jean Meston. They check galleys against manuscripts which by now may have been somewhat modified. At this point, it should be emphasized to authors who have found changes or errors in their published submissions that the fault is the editor's, not of anyone named above. Changes may be suggested, particularly in an attempt to shorten an article or to adjust it to *blue jay* style, but the changes are not made unless the editor agrees to them. He also approves all corrected galleys.

Corrections required in galleys are usually minor and so, at the same time that one set goes to the proofreaders, a second set is sent to Gary Seib in Regina to cut and paste into a dummy *blue jay*. Gary puts order into the long lines of printed columns and gets them to fit into 5-1/2 x 8-1/2 inch pages — on short notice. He also determines the size of illustrations and the cropping needed for them. Between issues, he spends considerable time with generous photographers, such as Fred Lahrman and Bob Gehlert, rounding up appropriate illustrations for articles coming in. Up to half the photos in an issue have been from sources other than authors.

The mock-up comes back to the editor and it, with corrected galleys, then goes to the printers for production of a stapled journal. Once again, the issue is sent to Regina, where Lorne Scott, George Dodd, junior naturalists from Indian Head, Gary Seib and others spend about 8 hours getting each issue ready for the post office. Hopefully, it is in readers' hands within a week. The number of people receiving the *blue jay* is, in large part, a credit to the efforts of Lloyd Peterson and those who have cooperated with him in obtaining memberships.

Other members have also contributed their time: Sandie Shaver and Jean Meston have typed anything that needed to be done. Sandie and Pern Corder have also written to some past contributors and encouraged them to write again. Jim Wedgwood has given the editor leads to enough articles and authors to fill an entire year of *blue jays*. Stuart Houston has been active in this and other ways. Margaret Belcher has selected material for "30 Years Ago" for each issue and Andre Bouthillette tabulated the results of the questionnaire. Others have helped in small but necessary ways.

To all of these people, I express my thanks. To authors, I also extend my apologies for mistakes I may have made. I am particularly appreciative of the efforts of the editorial staff during this, my first year of editorial training. Without their help, there would not have been four *blue jays* in 1973. — J. B. Gollop.