

## LOOKING BACK

Another volume of *Blue Jay* has been published — much to the amazement of the well disorganized editor. I continue to be impressed at what goes into four issues. To fill about 200 pages of type and some 60 pages of illustrations required 400 pages of double-spaced typing and writing and more than 110 photographs and 25 maps. This material came from nearly 100 writers of articles, notes, reviews and letters and from more than 35 photographers. A crew of three volunteers — Robert Nero, Vern Harms and the editor — has reviewed all of it. Five others took the time to proofread galleys and help in typing: Ed Driver, Molly Denson, Bill Richards, Thelma Pepper and Jean Meston. Gary Seib once again rounded up appropriate photos, cut and pasted the 11"-long printed columns and marked the illustrations to fit into 256 *Blue Jay* pages. Lorne Scott and his crew looked after the mailing of more than 10,000 copies. On behalf of the membership, I thank the authors, photographers and editorial staff for their time, energy, cooperation and patience.

I apologize to those writers who have been upset by some of my changes in their material or delays in its appearance. I have not been able to get modified manuscripts and galleys back to them for approval and proofreading. I would like to claim the reason was deadlines but more often it has been lethargy. In some cases through misunderstanding and in others through carelessness — both on my part — mistakes have been made. Probably my first New Year's resolution is long overdue: I will send galleys of at least articles to authors for proofreading in 1975.

In conclusion, I would urge many more of you to write — about any phase of nature that you have information on. Particularly, we want your observations and opinions on plants, mammals, insects and other invertebrates, reptiles, amphibians, fish, conservation, environmental problems, geology, paleontology and astronomy.

We can also use more photographs — coloured or black-and-white prints (any size but no smaller than 2" x 2"), slides or negatives of any size. We don't need stories with them, although these would be welcomed. Just send sharp, clear shots with your name, the subject and location or title of the picture and, if you have it, the date it was taken. We can return them to you, if you wish, after we are finished with them. We would like to put more pictures in the 1975 *Blue Jay* but can't do it without your help.

Have a happy Christmas season — writing stories for the next *Blue Jay*! — Bernie Gollop.

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**A BIRD PROPHECY.** In olden times it was a common superstition in northern Europe that the appearance of the "Silky-tail" foreboded war, pestilence, famine, or some dire natural catastrophe. The bird, a larger relative of our familiar Cedar Waxwing, came later to be known as the Bohemian Waxwing but whether in allusion to its wandering habits or to its occurrence in Bohemia is not known.

From *Nature Magazine*, April, 1924.