

### CLIFF SHAW AWARD

The Cliff Shaw Award for 1975 goes to Arlean McPherson of Saskatoon for her article on Cedar Waxwings in the December, 1974, issue of *Blue Jay*. Arlean has been interested in both nature and photography in a casual way for some time. However, when the opportunity presented itself in her backyard, she took advantage of it, keeping daily notes on the behaviour of both adult and young waxwings and photographing them regularly. She then wrote a delightful and infor-

mative account of her enjoyable experiences. Would that more readers would follow her example. Our congratulations on her achievement.

### 1975 CONSERVATION AWARD

Since birds are a sensitive indicator of the environment, the exemplary documentation of the bird life of the Rosetown-Biggarr area, sparked by *Wayne Renaud* was the basis of his being given the 1975 Conservation Award of the Society.

## LOOKING BACK

At the conclusion of another volume I want to thank contributors for their efforts and hope that readers have found more than enough of interest over the past year to renew their subscription — in spite of an increase in the subscription rate. I also want to thank the volunteers who helped put each issue together. My thanks to Bob Nero and Vern Harms who conscientiously handled the time-consuming job of editing manuscripts. Thelma Pepper, Molly Denson, Jean Meston and Bill Richards proofread material, usually on short notice. Ann Jeffries who composed the first two issues for this year and Ed Driver the last two, have my gratitude. Ed also proofread and edited throughout the year and handled most of the other editorial details for the June issue. Lorne Scott and his assistants ably handled the distribution of about 2500 copies of each issue.

In spite of all the above co-operation, 1975 has been a rough year — particularly for authors and readers. My apologies, first and foremost, to authors for my not living up to promises made a year ago regarding sending galleys, for errors in printing and for lack of correspondence about manuscripts. My apologies also to readers for late issues and, again, for not acknowledging correspondence. Having decided that I fall far short of being an adequate editor, I have submitted my resignation. If you can be patient for one or two more issues, the situation should improve significantly.

One more word to contributors: a few authors have articles printed in the issue following their submission but most have waited two, three and even four issues to see the results of their work. My selection has been influenced by the amount of material, length of article, suitability for a particular season and compatibility with other articles on hand or in preparation. Thank you for your patience.

The coloured plate in this issue was made possibly by a donation of \$500. Hopefully, the increased subscription rate will permit one or more coloured pages in the coming year.