

LORAN L. GOULDEN, ALBERTA NATURALIST

by MARTIN K. McNICHOLL*

The tragic death of Loran L. Goulden in a plane crash on Riddle Mountain, B.C. on August 1, 1974, brought to a close a short, but significant chapter in the history of natural history in Alberta. Loran was a professional photographer of outstanding merit, but devoted most of his spare time in his last 3 years to bird study. He became a professional naturalist shortly before his death, when he joined an environmental consulting firm in Edmonton.

Loran's contribution to nature study in Alberta, and especially in Edmonton, cannot be overstated. He initiated and edited regular faunal reports for the northern half of Alberta, publishing these in the *Edmonton Naturalist*. For these reports he cooperated with the Provincial Museum and Archives of Alberta in designing the Alberta Animal Record Card. These cards and reports are a continuing memorial to Loran's memory. Loran also initiated an extensive series of workshop-style classes in various aspects of nature, co-sponsored by the Edmonton Natural History Club and the Provincial Museum. He personally conducted the most popular and time-consuming of these: birds of Alberta. In January, 1973, Loran was elected president of the Edmonton Natural History Club, a post which he still held at his death. His contributions to the club far exceeded those expected of a president. Loran was also a Director of the Federation of Alberta Naturalists and Chairman of FAN's Endangered Species Committee.

His more academic pursuits included the running of a bird study plot at Elk Island National Park for the winter and breeding birds censuses published annually by *American Birds*,

contribution of several maps to a book on the early winter distribution of birds in North America, and conducting a route for the Breeding Bird Survey of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Canadian Wildlife Service. He published articles in the *Alberta Naturalist*, *Blue Jay*, and *Auk*, as well as the *Edmonton Naturalist*, for which he was faunal editor. He also published a book review in the *Canadian Field-Naturalist* and was on the editorial board of *Western Birds*.

A much more complete account of Loran's brief, but productive career is detailed in an article by this writer in the first 1975 issue of the *Alberta Naturalist*.

30 Years Ago

From the 11-page mimeographed *Blue Jay* of January-February-March, 1945, come the following notes:

Some young members of the Yorkton N.H.S. counted muskrat houses for Ducks Unlimited on November 9, 1944. There were 353 houses on Upper Rousay Lake (169 the year before) and 223 on Lower Rousay (compared to 25 in 1943) . . . Don Knox estimated that 5,000-6,000 ducks were killed on November 15 at Clair apparently as they attempted to land (at night) in a stubble field covered with hoar frost under a sky of thick fog and smoke . . . Bounties of 5 cents each were paid on 1,092 woodchucks by the RM around Tisdale in 1944 . . . Lindsay and Bill Wotherpoon of Hyas caught a chickadee in 1937 that they had banded 5 years earlier . . . In 1942 Arthur Ward of Burnham recaptured two robins that he had banded in 1940 and 1941.

Twenty-eight people reported 33 species of birds in 12 Saskatchewan Christmas Counts in 1944. The

Dept. of Zoology,
University of Alberta,
Edmonton, Alberta.
6G 2E1