

The Churchill River: a resource for conservation and recreation — CLAUDE MONDOR and PRIIDU JUURAND.

Hydroelectric developments in Northern Canada: a comparison with the Churchill River project in Saskatchewan — DON GILL and ALAN COOKE

Alternate energy sources: the A, B, C's of energy — J. W. T. SPINKS

Copies are available for ~\$2.00 each from the Institute for Northern Studies, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Sask. S7N 0W0.



### WHERE TO GO BIRDWATCHING IN CANADA

By David Sterling and Jim Woodford,  
Hancock House Publishers,  
Saanichton, B.C.,  
1975. 127 p.

This pocket-sized paperback is a condensation of the four regional bird books published in the 1970's by the same group. Based on a comparison with *Some of the common and uncommon birds of Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba*, reviewed in the March 1974, *Blue Jay*, it contains the same errors of commission and omission, including at least 46 mistakes in the checklist for the Prairie Provinces. Except for the covers, the 78 photographs are black and white and all are taken from the regional versions. The cover claims that the book is "a guide to hundreds of special locations" for birding; my count showed 79 discussed in the equivalent of about 35 pages of text.

There is a list of Bird Clubs but the addresses often do not agree with the *Canadian Conservation Directory 1975/76* (published by Canadian Nature Federation, Ottawa). A person interested in birding away from home would be better advised to buy this Directory for \$2.00 and write the appropriate club for information than to pay \$3.95 for *Where to go . . . J. B. Gollop*.



## Letters

### A TAME BLUEBIRD



My wife and I are proud to have been associated with Dr. John Lane in putting out and taking care of a nest line of about 150 boxes in this vicinity. We have thoroughly enjoyed the experience for a number of years but last summer we had an unusual time with a pair of nesting Mountain Bluebirds in Box 1008 about 5 miles northeast of Wawanesa. This box was first checked on June 1st and the male was so tame one could touch it while inspecting the box which contained 3 eggs. The next

week we went back and took some 12 slides with the closeup lens when it was even tamer than the week before, as it was snapping up black flies or sand flies (which can kill the nestling); it also hovered for insects at my feet. In contrast, the female never came nearer than two fence posts away at any time.

On June 22 the young had flown to nearby aspen woods and when I went to the box and tapped on it the male came from the trees and posed for some friends that wanted to get pictures of it. On July 27 the box was checked and 3 young were in it about a week old; the male was just as tame as ever so I took some movie film of it. On August 1st it was checked again after some very hot days in the 90's and the young were all dead. There had been some grading machinery on the road and this with the heat could have disturbed the female at a critical time. — *Ed Robinson*, Box 42, Wawanesa, Manitoba. R0K 2G0

## JOE, THE BALTIMORE ORIOLE

On July 15, 1975, my brother Eric and I caught a young Baltimore (Northern) Oriole with an injured wing. He was soon devouring grasshoppers and berries. He was kept in a bird cage during the night and, once his wing began healing, was allowed to fly around the room. The young oriole could be handled by us easily. When we were feeding him, he would lower his wings, shake them and make a throaty sound that young birds produce to get food from their parents. Sometimes we would just leave a jar of stunned grasshoppers open and let him take his pick. On August 1, when our family was visiting Katepwa, we released him. We saw him frequently after his release and could call him by a simple whistle. — *Tony Lang*, 65 Bobolink Bay, Regina. (Age 14)



Joe (front and centre).