

HANKS, BOB

In the March 1956 issue of the *Blue Jay* a special section of "Museum Notes" was inaugurated, and the name of Dr. R. W. Nero, the new assistant director of the Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History, first came to the attention of the journal's readers. That date marked the beginning of 21 years of continuous service to the *Blue Jay*, a connection formally terminated last fall when Bob resigned from the editorial staff. No one has had a longer association with the *Blue Jay* in an editorial capacity, and it will be extremely difficult to replace him. Although Bob will no longer be listed as an assistant editor, the *Blue Jay* continues to hope that from his Manitoba base he will continue to encourage the reporting of natural history observations by many kinds of people, professional and amateur. As we look forward to further contributions from Bob, this seems an appropriate time to say a special "thank you" to him for his long and loyal service in the past.

Every reader in a reminiscent mood has

just reminded us of all the articles on birds and mammals that Bob himself has contributed to the *Blue Jay*. When he worked at the Museum in Regina or Winnipeg he saw it as part of his professional responsibility to publicize what was being learned about the local fauna. Articles on the distribution in Saskatchewan of species like the Kangaroo Rat, Short-tailed Shrew, Pocket Mouse and Silver-haired and Hoary bats, alternated with others reporting the rare occurrence in the province of birds like the Arctic Tern, Williamson's Sapsucker, Red-bellied Woodpecker and Golden-crowned Sparrow. More than two columns in the *Blue Jay* indexes are devoted to the titles of notes and articles by R. W. Nero. But even more important, he instilled in others a sense of the importance of recording observations and of reporting them. From the first, Bob was an ardent fan of the *Blue Jay's* founding editor, Isabel Priestly, a scientist with the same rare capacity of sharing her informed awareness with others.



King Grosbeak

Dwayne Hart