

is a challenge. History is there, with early homesteads, the Indian tipi rings and medicine wheel, and nearby Cannington Manor.

We feel that this opportunity to integrate learning with the living laboratory of the outdoors provides the best method of fostering the positive values of respect and responsibility for our prairies. What needs to be done? We have formed a Society, and have bought land. Our membership is expanding, but we need wider support, more publicity and indications to the government that this project is considered by the public to be worthwhile. So far, we have received only support in principle from the Departments of Environment, Tourism and Renewable Resources, and Education. Chiefly, of course, we need money and have started a fund-raising drive for capital expenses, hoping to get the major donations from companies and granting foundations. What other ways can individuals help? How about looking

through the attic or basement for equipment that could be useful — kitchen equipment for the cabins; parka or boots for children who might come inadequately prepared; building materials, and farm and food processing equipment of all types. Remember that all donations, whether used goods or cash, are tax deductible. Or perhaps you'd like to undertake a specific project, such as setting up a fish farm, weather station, observatory for stars, weaving program, fruit cellar, ski trails, or a check-list of the birds of the area. Finally, maybe you enjoy spending some holiday time on weekends with us.

To join or help, call or write to:

Prairie Lore and Living Society,
45 Langley St., Regina, Sask.

Don Stewart, R.R. 2, Craven.

(Phone 485-2754)

Jack Mackenzie, 307-2720 College
Ave., Regina.

(Phone 523-0192)

Letters

GYRFALCONS NEAR SALTCOATS, SASKATCHEWAN, 1963-64

Throughout the winter of 1963-64 I made nearly 20 observations of Gyrfalcons, chiefly along Cutarm Creek south of Saltcoats. All but one or two sightings were of dark-phase birds. In the fall of 1964 I made the following Gyrfalcon observations: November 18 and November 25, dark phase; December 6, light phase; December 26, dark phase. — *Bill Horseman*, Box 22, Saltcoats, Saskatchewan.

ROAD ALLOWANCES

On Page 54 of the March, 1974 *Blue Jay*, an article by Hugo Tiessen on Road Allowances was exactly what I had often thought about.

These approximately 90-ft. wide strips designated as road allowances are not all used for roads and are left idle in many instances, providing windbreaks, shelter for birds. Many are dense with Saskatoons, Chokecherry and wild roses. They provide food for birds and often a slough for water birds — real little wild parks. Needing no money for upkeep, no expensive park wardens, just asking to be left alone to preserve our heritage.

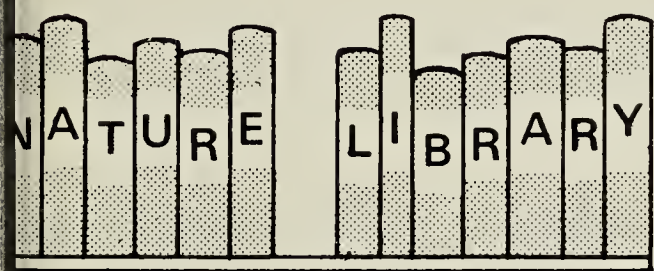
In the past, municipalities have of-

en granted farmers permission to break up a strip if it was not being used as a road. Now that grain is a better price. I can see many farmers eyeing the natural little parks and seeing them as a means of a few cheap acres.

The Churchbridge Municipality passed a resolution recently to keep these road allowances unbroken, according to the Yorkton Enterprise.

Wouldn't it be great if, at the next Rural Municipal Convention, the powers that be could be convinced of the importance of keeping these strips intact, except where roads need to be built.

No money needed, no money lost! Parks for the birds and other animals! We really should try and save them. They amount to hundreds of acres. — *Cate Thompson, RR 1., Bangor, Saskatchewan.*



WHERE THE WAGON LED

by R. D. Symons
Doubleday Canada Ltd., Toronto, Ontario.
Doubleday and Company Inc.,
Garden City, New York.
143 pp. 1973. \$8.95

This beautifully written book, "Where The Wagon Led", is undoubtedly autobiographical but it reads like a well coordinated series of short, short stories. R. D. Symons came out west from England as a well educated 17-year-old lad. He chose to settle in the west because he hoped to get work as a cowboy or at least work with horses. Besides being an expert rider, the boy was very knowledgeable where horseflesh was concerned and his love

and respect for these animals is evident throughout the book. Mr. Symons' cowboy career was slow to start because of his small stature; however, his riding skill, training skills and natural ability to work horses soon gained favourable recognition for him from many cattlemen and he worked with the best of them, enduring almost indescribable hardships through severe winters and sometimes summers almost as bad. Mr. Symons' characterizations of many friends, acquaintances and some scoundrels, are very vivid and sometimes humorous but the reader is carried along from episode to episode with interest and excitement. The early days of ranching, the then young Royal North West Mounted Police, and the influx of farmers, are all described with his usual strength, good use of the English language and no waste of words. Although he does not dwell on the subject at any great length, he does mention his service in World War I with special emphasis on the horses which were used extensively.

Any horse lover will enjoy this book and will understand the emotions of the author without any difficulty. It is also of tremendous interest to a greenhorn like your reviewer, who knew little about the horse but learned much from the book even to the point of grasping Mr. Symons' innermost feelings regarding a beloved era, now past, when man's very existence often depended on the horse.

Mr. Symons was a nature lover and an artist (the 70 illustrations in "Where The Wagon Led" are his own) and through the years his activity and interest in ecology, conservation, love of all wildlife and his art work finally earned him an honorary L.L.D. from the University of Saskatchewan. He died February 1, 1973, his passing mourned by many. The following quote seems very fitting for such a man as Mr. Symons:

"But ask the beasts, and they will teach you; the birds of the air, and they will tell you." . . . (Job. 12:7). —*Pat O'Neil, 1125 Elliott St., Saskatoon, Sask.*