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## EDITORIAL

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A good friend spoke longingly to me not so long ago of the "good old days" when a naturalist could spend time communing with nature. Being a naturalist meant spending time in the great outdoors observing nature and recording what was seen. My friend expressed uneasiness with all the new ecologists and environmentalists who are now demanding action from governments and from individuals. But, I argued, without these

people to fight for us, where would the naturalist (in the old sense of the word) be? Unfortunately, we need these people to help us preserve that natural world that is so precious. The state of the world, people are shouting everywhere, is critical. We need to join our voices, and our forces, and work cooperatively toward our common goal.

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## EDITORIAL (Continued from page 172)

I am sure that many of the members of the society are not aware that their board of directors has not been running as smoothly as it might have been. That spirit of cooperation that is so important to the attainment of our goals appears to be lacking. There is "in-fighting" among the board members. Within the last few years a Newsletter Editor, Bookshop Managers and most recently the Editor of the *Blue Jay* (all appointed positions) have been summarily dismissed, in a fashion which, whether deliberate or not, has created bad feelings between members. I cannot speak to the other positions, but the dismissal of your editor has been due to the late production of issues of *Blue Jay*. This lateness was first caused by technical difficulties in setting up the journal on computer, and latterly by the lateness in arrival of material traditionally run in the March issue. In spite of the fact that the final two issues of 1990 were brought back on schedule the executive committee of the board chose to follow a board motion to select a new editor, if the June issue did not appear by the 15 June. At the same time they allowed the nominating committee to request the previous editor to let her name stand for appointment. This led to the awkward position where the nominating committee and the executive committee were presenting opposing positions at the board meeting in November. And the executive committee was even reluctant to let it appear that they were responsible for the new nomination. What kind of board would allow that kind of gross mismanagement?

I am truly afraid of the direction that this society has been taking. I have spoken to some of the long-term members of the society, and they do not recall this type of situation arising at board meetings in the past. The society has a great deal more money at its disposal than it has ever had. Yes, there are some research projects that are underway, but what is the society doing that is concrete in the form of conservation? What will come of having several reports, which are not even all available at the Society office, collecting dust on shelves? We must be able to show something more for this money. Please, let your board members know your ideas. Playing politics won't save the natural areas or our wildlife. Let's get back the spirit of cooperation. I would like to thank those members of the Society who gave me their support in the past, all those who sent in photographs and manuscripts and who shared their observations of nature in other ways. May Isabel Priestly's "Blue Jay" continue to help us share our observations and studies of the natural world.