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# LETTERS

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## THE ELUSIVE CHICKLET

In the top of the dark spruce, away up high.

A wee bird flitted against the sky.  
To Make its identity I would try.  
It was timid, elusive and shy.

As I approached it moved from tree to tree,

Always a distance ahead of me.  
I heard a soft "chip," or maybe a "t-see"?

A kinglet? or Boreal Chickadee?

In the Christmas Bird Count - 'twas a real bind,

To list each bird, and not lag behind.  
*Chickadee ? kinglet ?* — to rest my mind,

I called it *CHICKLET*. A rare new find!

— *Donald F. Hooper*, Box 40, Somme, Saskatchewan. S0E 1N0

## NEST BOX TRAIL AT GRAYSON, SASKATCHEWAN

The past 10 years since my retirement I have established a bird trail about 170 boxes and adding a few each year. My area includes #2 Highway from Junction #9 Highway West to #47 with some along Highway #47 North to Melville and south to the Qu'Appelle Valley. Also there are

some along two roads south of Grayson to the Valley.

Here are the results from the boxes:

Tree Swallows nested in 118 — from 5 - 7 eggs. All fledged except two were found dead in the nest.

House Wrens 18 — all well and healthy.

Mountain Bluebirds 2 — each 5 eggs, 5 young; all left the next in good health.

I have used the idea of paired boxes as described previously in *Blue Jay*. — *John M. Hicke*, Box 291, Grayson, Saskatchewan. S0A 1E0

## OWL EATING HABITS

I have a Great Horned Owl with an injured wing. It eats a pigeon every second day. To my surprise it even eats the keel bone (sternum).

A few years ago, I fed an injured Snowy Owl. It ate a pigeon every third day. When given a pigeon it ate all but the keel bone and large wing and tail feathers. Sometimes the pigeon was not eaten all at once and became frozen, yet next day it had all disappeared. It is amazing how powerful an owl's beak is. — *Sig Jordheim*, R.R. #1, White Bear, Saskatchewan. S0L 3L0

# SNHS SUMMER MEET — 16th ANNUAL CNF CONFERENCE

University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon 4-7 June 1987

As indicated in the Blue Jay News, January 1987 changes have been made to accommodate the visit of HRH Prince Philip to

Saskatchewan, 4 and 5 June. Please take careful note of resulting changes in tours and program.



**HRH Prince Philip**

## FIELD TRIPS

A. Turtle Lake 2-4 June	\$175
With your own vehicle	98
B. Blackstrap Park 4 June	28
C. Meewasin Valley Trail 4 & 7 June	free
D. Last Mountain Lake 5 June	28
E. Beechy Grasslands 7 June	38
With your own vehicle	8
F. Louis Riel (Batoche) 7 June	26
With your own vehicle	8
G. Beaver Creek Flora 7 June	15
H. Cypress Hills 8-12 June	295
I. Churchill 8-15 June	725
J. Qu'Appelle Valley Flora	
8-10 June	175
K. Pike Lake 8 June	15

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 2-4	: Pre-conference field trips
June 4	: Orientation
	: Wine and cheese party
June 5	: Last Mountain Lake 100 year celebration
	: Annual meeting
June 6	: Symposium
	: Banquet
June 7	: Field trips
June 8-15	: Post-conference field trips

## SYMPOSIUM

Theme of symposium — "A Century of Wildlife Conservation in Saskatchewan." Topics of the speakers include Last Mountain Lake, birds in Saskatchewan, land use, naturalists, Cypress Hills and Grasslands National Park:

## AND THERE'S MORE . . .

Early morning nature walks	Nature art show and nature exhibits
Blue Jay and Nature Canada bookshops	Banquet and wine and cheese party
Accommodation available at University Residences	

**REGISTRATION** fee is \$25

Sign up early for field trips — space is limited

FOR DETAILED INFORMATION PACKET AND REGISTRATION FORMS write now to: **CNF Conference 1987, Box 5094, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. S7K 4E4** or telephone **(306) 652-5970** 8 am — 8 pm CST and leave your name and address.



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**Box 414, Raymore, Saskatchewan S0A 3J0**

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- \* Do you know of any person interested in natural history and conservation who does not receive the *Blue Jay*? Please send their name and address and we will send a sample *Blue Jay* and an invitation to join our Society.



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