
EDITOR'S MESSAGE

1999 was a year for 50th anniversaries.

Nature Saskatchewan celebrated 50 years of people working together towards the common goal of nature conservation. For Nature Saskatchewan, 50 is more than a big, round number. It means that our organization still has very active members who have been part of the organization from the beginning. It also has members the age of their grandchildren and all ages in between. Our 50th is a time to celebrate both dedication and enthusiasm, and the huge variety of professional and personal skills that this groups represents.

The Species Survival Commission (SSC) of the IUCN-The World Conservation Union was also 50 years old in 1999. A vigorous proponent of conservation of biodiversity, the SSC has been the driving force behind a wide range of international conservation programs. This volunteer organization now consists of 110 groups of volunteer specialists, each one focussed on a particular conservation issue or broad area of applicable expertise. More than anything, the SSC has worked to assemble reliable information about life on earth, available in a series of nearly 2000 publications that can be used to design recovery programs and justify conservation initiatives in law. As a 50th Anniversary project, the SSC has announced creation of a World Conservation Digital Library to make available some 6,500 pages of information about species conservation issues and conservation action plans, indexed and searchable by subject or region. In the near future, look for the Digital Library on the SSC website at <http://iucn.org/themes/ssc/index.htm>.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Gail Bunt for her exceptional contribution of preparing the index to Volume 57, printed in this issue. All readers of *Blue Jay* owe Gail a vote of thanks for her meticulous work on this time-consuming task.

Anna and Ted Leighton, Editors