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THE

BULLETIN - J A Y

Official Bulletin
Of The
YORKTON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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OBJECTS:

To foster an active interest in every branch of nature study, and to promote the conservation of all wild life; also to act as a connecting link between nature lovers in Saskatchewan.

SECRETARY'S ADDRESS:

Box 642,
Yorkton, Sask.

Membership fee 25¢ per year

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This past summer it was difficult for us in Yorkton to realise that drought conditions prevailed in some parts of the West. In this section of Saskatchewan every slough and road-side pond was filled to overflowing and ducks were back in numbers comparable to those remembered by the old-timers thirty or forty years ago. The great increase in the number of ducks was undoubtedly the highlight of bird life this year. The fall migration has presented few outstanding features. Cold weather early in September sped the early migrants on their way, and an unusually warm spell in October in no way seems to have tempted the later travellers to linger on beyond their normal departure date. One thing might be noted - in the spring we complained of a scarcity of the transient visitants; this Fall they made up for their neglect of us last spring. White-throated sparrows, Myrtle warblers, Harris sparrows, and others, have all been around in very large numbers.

We have received several reports of a great increase of predators, - due largely to the shortage of ammunition and the fact that there is less trapping being done in wartime. This is a problem which will need very wise handling and we feel that an educational campaign is most desirable at the present time, especially with regard to the hawks, so that at some future date, beneficial species may not suffer extermination through being confused with their less desirable relatives. A letter on this question is quoted on the next page.

We have also been asked why we do not call our society the Saskatchewan Natural History Society since we have subscribers to the "Blue Jay" all across the province. Apart from the fact that this privilege would naturally belong to the Regina N.H.S., which has been active for many more years than we have, it was unanimously decided at our first meeting that our society should be the Yorkton N.H.S. and this is now incorporated in the constitution. What we should like to see, however, is many more local clubs, all of which could then unite to form a federation of Saskatchewan naturalists. Imagine what could be done in the interests of our native wildlife by such an organisation! There is no need for a natural history society to be an alarmingly highbrow affair. Our society in Yorkton is a small, friendly group of people who are all interested in the out-of-doors, but we have very definitely learnt the value of being properly organised. For several years we watched birds and had some pleasant times but, apart from purely personal enjoyment, we "got nowhere" in comparison with what we have done in this past year since we organised as the Y.H.N.S. Now we feel that we are really contributing something of value to the community. Surely there must be sufficient nature lovers in other centres to form similar groups.

Isabel M. Priestly,
President,
Yorkton Natural History
Society.

We should like to remind members that membership fees for this year are now due; will members also please try and bring our society and the "Blue Jay" to the notice of others interested in nature and our native wildlife.