

The annual meeting of our society took place in the Council Chambers on Friday evening, September 24. With the exception of three changes in the directorate all officers were re-elected for the current year. The main matter of business was the adoption of a constitution for the society presented by the retiring executive. The treasurer's report showed a deficit of \$9.40 on an expenditure for the past year of \$59.50. Each issue of the "Blue Jay" costs approximately ten dollars to produce and this, it must be remembered, is only for stencils, paper and postage, the entire work of mimeographing the bulletin is undertaken by our secretary, to whom a special vote of thanks was made at the annual meeting. The general feeling was that the membership fee should be increased next year to place the production of the "Blue Jay" on a sounder basis. Among the plans discussed regarding future activities was one for a campaign in the schools next spring for the protection of birds and their nests - a marked increase in the destruction of nests and eggs having been reported from several sources this past season. It was also suggested that next summer we start making a collection of the wild flowers of this district which could be used as a reference collection by the Yorkton schools.

As our main club project this year we have been making a study of the Rousay Lakes area with a view to noting the changes brought about through the restoration of the water levels by Ducks Unlimited. Mrs. Priestly made a collection of the most characteristic plants of the area, and Stuart Houston banded over 500 ducks and waterfowl in four traps on the Upper Lake. This winter we plan to make a count of the muskrat houses.

W. Reid, Los Angeles, president of Ducks Unlimited (U.S.A.), spent a day in Yorkton in September looking over the work, that has already been carried out, in this district. Mr. Reid, a former resident of Alberta, is keenly interested in wildlife problems of the Canadian prairies. -Ducks Unlimited are now starting work on a scheme to restore the water to Leech Lake, south of Yorkton, which, in recent years, has been a dreary alkali waste given over to gophers.

Our last "Blue Jay" made some truly long distance flights - to the Maritimes and New York; across the Atlantic to England; southward as far as Pueblo, Col., not to mention several points in British Columbia as well as shorter flights to places in Manitoba and Alberta.

Leroy Simmons, who has sent us several interesting bird reports from Maymont, is now with the R.C.A.F. taking a navigator's course. We send him our best wishes and these also go to Cpl. J. Culver, U.S. Army Air Force and to Sgt. Maj. Frank Priestly, R.C.A., both of whom recently arrived in England.

Just before he went overseas, Cpl. Culver made the following suggestion in a letter from New York thanking us for two copies of the "Blue Jay" which finally caught up with him. . . . "Could you not prepare a chart showing the amount of good and the amount of harm done annually by the various species of hawks and owls? I remember when Frank and I caused some poor farmer to tear his hair and the gophers to rejoice, when we shot a Swainson's Hawk! ". - We have had other requests for something of this sort and will endeavour to draw up a chart before next spring. (By the way Cpl. Culver very tactfully makes no reference to the severe lecture he and Frank also received at the hands of Mrs. Priestly following the above mentioned episode, apparently it made a lasting impression!)