

THE BLUE JAY.

The official organ of the Yorkton Natural History Society continued in loving memory of the founder, our first President and Editor, the late Isabel M. Priestly.

Editor - C. C. Shaw,

Associate Editors.

Maurice G. Street, Nipawin, Ornithology
Lloyd T. Carmichael, Regina, Botany
Lloyd O. Peterson, Indian Head, Entomology
Fred G. Bard, Regina, Provincial Museum
William Fuller, Saskatoon, Mammals

Officers

	Honorary President: His Honour L. T. McKim, Melfort	
President	Cliff Shaw	Directors F. Langstaff
Vice-President	W. J. McDonald	A. E. Smith
Secretary	Pauline Summers, 34 Sixth Ave., Yorkton	D. R. Ball Mrs. C. Wiggleley

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Y.N.H.S. Notes

The annual meeting of the Yorkton Natural History Society was held in the Council Chambers of the City Hall, October 30. This was the first meeting of the Society for the Fall season and business for the evening centered around the election of officers and the reading of the yearly reports.

Re-elected to office were: Hon. President His Honour L. T. McKim of Melfort, Cliff Shaw, President, W. J. McDonald, Vice-President, Miss Pauline Summers, Secretary-Treasurer and Directors, A. E. Smith and F. Langstaff. Mrs. C. Wiggleley and D. R. Ball were elected as directors replacing Mr. F. Forman and Mr. Jack Brownlee who left Yorkton during the summer.

The secretary's report showed the Society to have enjoyed a favorable year during 1946-47, both in activities and from a financial point of view.

A vote of thanks was passed to the Associate Editors of the "Blue Jay" and to the Provincial museum for their co-operation in making it possible to continue publication of the magazine.

Four films obtained from the Yorkton Film Council were shown at the meeting by Chairman of the Council and member of the society, Otto J. Thorleifson. The films were "The American Eider Duck," "The Fur Trade in Canada," "Vegetable Insects" and "River of Canada."

The November meeting of the Society, held November 18, created a precedent in that there was such a large attendance the seating accommodation of the Council Chambers was inadequate. Special permission was obtained to use the City Hall auditorium and even then, a few people found only standing room available.

Y.N.H.S. Notes (continued)

Reason for the large attendance was a "Museum Night" sponsored by the Natural History Society. All material donated to the future Yorkton museum, together with private hobby collections, was placed on display.

Following the showing of four films, dealing with museum work, the audience returned to the council chambers to see the exhibits on display.

Attending this meeting were members of the recently organized "Natural Science Club" from the Yorkton Collegiate Institute and students from a number of the public schools.

If the large attendance was indicative of public interest in museum work, the new venture has assurance of success.

BIRD NOTES

Reports of eagles having been seen, usually during the Fall months, are not uncommon. The majority of these appear to be immature Golden Eagles, that wander eastwards from their breeding range in the mountains of the west. Immature Golden Eagles are dark brownish birds with white tails that are more or less broadly tipped with black. This black band broadens, until, in adult plumage only the base of the tail is white. This largely white tail of the immature Golden often gives rise to their being misidentified as Bald Eagles. Adults of the latter species, however, have a white head in addition to a white tail. The immature Bald Eagle lacks the white head of the adult and has a dark tail, lightening to white at the base. In the hand, the immatures are easily identified; the legs of the Golden being feathered to the toes, while the Bald Eagle has bare tarsi.

C. Stuart Francis, Torch River, writes - "We had an excellent observation of a Bald Eagle on November 7th, as it soared over our house, its white head and tail showing up very plainly." Steve Waycheshen reports having seen his first Bald Eagle, for the High Hill district, on July 31.

Gustave J. Yakie noted a Golden Eagle at Sandwith on October 13, while at Nipawin, also on October 13th, Mr. Henry Grandfield, with the aid of the family dog, killed a small immature Golden that had attacked his domestic chickens. This eagle, while attempting to carry away its prey, was attacked by the dog, which injured the bird's wing, so that after escaping the dog the eagle was forced down a short distance away. Grandfield, again with the help of the dog, caught up with the injured bird and killed it, but only after the eagle had fastened its talons deeply into Mr. Grandfield's leg. Even after death, the eagle retained its hold until Mrs. Grandfield came to her husband's rescue by prying the powerful talons loose with a stick.

The beautiful snow-white Whistling Swan, that is apparently increasing in recent years, is a hardy bird and one of the last species to migrate from its far northern breeding grounds in Fall. Mr. Wm. Niven, Sheho, writes on October 25th: "I have seen a few whistling swans, but not many, as in some Falls. The weather remains fine and the lakes and ponds are still open, but it usually is a sign of freeze-up when the swans come down from the north." Steve Waycheshen, in an excellent "late departure" list, records "Four noted on a lake, at High Hill, November 3rd." From Torch, C. Stuart Francis, writes, "A flock of Whistling Swans were seen migrating southward on November 7th,"