

# The Blue Jay

Quarterly Bulletin of the Saskatchewan Natural History Society

Founded by Mrs. Isabel M. Priestly

Editor and Secretary-Treasurer: Lloyd T. Carmichael  
President: C.C. Shaw, Yorkton  
Business Manager: Dr. G.F. Ledingham, Regina College.

Mail all communications to the Editor at 1077 Garnet St., Regina.  
Subscription Fee: \$1.00 a year.

---

---

Volume VIII

OCT. - NOV. - DEC. - 1950

No. 4

---

---



Most of us have no desire to live in a land of perpetual summer. It is the changing of the seasons which adds interest and beauty to the world about us. Remembrances and anticipations go hand in hand in the fashioning of a contented mind.

Now that our songful feathered visitors have left us for a season; now that the gay colours of the wild flowers are but a memory, and the leaves of the trees are painted and gone; now as so many of our native animals rest comfortably in hibernation while the cold winds

whistle and the snow crystals fall, we can still look about us and enjoy the gifts that nature has to bestow.

It was John Murray Gibbon who wrote:

"I see the fairies of a winter's night  
Float from the tree-tops to the path below  
And pattern laces with the clear moon-light  
And shadows of the branches on the snow."

Not only are we surrounded by the shining splendor of the snow flakes, the bright stars in the sky and the contrasting colors of nature, but hardy animal life is with us also, feeding on dried berries and seeds, or gambling in the moonlight on the snow.

Splendid in their plumage, birds from the north come to us again, braving the prairie winter in company with the permanent residents of our animal life. More especially among the trees in the sheltered valleys, and in the bluffs of the parkland, wild life is still present in abundance to all who have the desire and stamina to search out in their usual haunts.

The Christmas season, coming during this period of short cold days and long nights is, like Rudolph, a light showing us the way. It brightens our lives, takes the sting out of winter, opens our hearts to a greater

consideration, not only of mankind, but of all wild life which solicits our aid. It is a reminder that lengthening days are here again, and that once more, as always a new spring is soon to be born.

To all our readers we wish a bright and happy Christmas and good hunting in the fields of out-of-doors.

### THE ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting and convention of the Society, held this year in the auditorium of the provincial museum was an outstanding success. 101 members registered, a number of whom came from distant points.

Mr. Cliff C. Shaw was elected president, succeeding Dr. G. F. Ledingham, who last year acted both as president and business manager. Maurice Street, of Nipawin, was named 1st vice-president and A. C. Budd, of Swift Current, 2nd vice-president.

Morning, afternoon and evening sessions were held. The topics discussed by the various speakers were of particular interest to all nature enthusiasts, and the splendid slides shown in color and explained by running commentaries, were exceptional, both from an artistic and instructional point of view.

The ladies of the Regina Natural History Society were hosts to the members and visitors, and served dainty lunches during both the afternoon and evening sessions.

The delegates were welcomed by Fred G. Bard, director of the museum, and by Fred S. Robinson, president of the Regina Natural History Society. Nature lectures, illustrated by colored slides were given by F. S. Robinson, Fred Lariman, and Doug Gilray, all of Regina; Cliff Brown of the Dominion Entomology Station at Indian Head, and C. C. Shaw of Yorkton.

A. C. Budd of Swift Current, spoke on methods of plant collecting and preservation; A. J. Hudson of Mortlach on Archaeology in the Sandy Creek district; Arthur Ward of Swift Current, on forestry and methods of bird banding; Lloyd Carmichael, on Saskatchewan species of goldenrods. Other speakers were Dr. G. F. Ledingham, Dr. V. Rondeau of Rouleau, W. Yanchinski of Naicam and H. C. Andrews, of Moose Jaw.

The business session was held during the early part of the evening. Of particular interest was the decision to make Mr. Dick Bird a life member of the Society in recognition of the splendid contributions he has made in the field of photography and nature science, to this Society, to Saskatchewan and to all America.

L. T. Carmichael, Editor of the BLUE JAY, reported that the membership as of October 14, was 490; that the total receipts for the fiscal year were \$508 and the total expenditures \$487. The bank balance, not including the \$187, later received from the Dick Bird lecture, was \$80. He also reported that 111 of our members had still not paid their 1949 fees, and made an appeal to the executive to put forth a greater effort, not only to get new members, but to retain those which we already have.

The following out-of-town directors were elected for the three-year term:

L. T. McKim, Melfort; E. W. Brooman, Prince Albert; H. C. Andrews, Moose Jaw; E. W. Van Blaricon, Tisdale and A. J. Hudson, Mortlach.

Regina directors: F. S. Robinson, G. F. Ledingham, F. S. Bard,  
W. A. Brownlee and Mrs. W. R. Cruickshank.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR NEW PRESIDENT

-- CLIFF SHAW --

In addition to the pleasure of meeting with former friends, the annual convention provided the opportunity to become acquainted with many naturalists, friends whom we had previously known only by name. The writer feels sure all of us returned home better informed and with added enthusiasm to aid the BLUE JAY and in so doing share with others the pleasure of nature.

It was gratifying to your executive that within two years the Society has grown from infancy to a robust youngster, as evident by the large attendance from so many districts.

While the convention was highly successful, changes will undoubtedly be made as the society develops. It has been suggested that another year the meeting should devote time for the presentation and discussion of resolutions and possible improvements to the BLUE JAY. Your executive welcomes such suggestions and solicits constructive criticism, so that future conventions can be drawn up in accordance with your wishes.

To those who were unable to attend, we would like to call your attention to a point brought out in the financial report by our editor, Mr. Carmichael. The future of the Society hinges largely on the success of the BLUE JAY. Greater circulation is required to ensure the financial success of the publication. The BLUE JAY is, of course, a mutual undertaking and efforts to add to the number of subscribers should be shared by every reader. May we remind ourselves that no product, much less a publication, sells on its merit without the assistance of a salesman.

Most of us are taking the BLUE JAY because it was recommended to us by a naturalist friend. In turn let us do likewise and demonstrate to our hard-working editor and his staff that we appreciate their efforts.

Your president and officers take this opportunity to express their appreciation to all those who contributed to the success of the 1950 convention.

ONE OF OUR MEMBERS HONORED

G. Ledingham

Dick Bird, Saskatchewan's noted nature photographer, was awarded a fellowship in the Photographic Society of America at its recent annual meeting in Baltimore, Maryland. Mr. Bird was cited for "outstanding ability in the creation of color motion pictures of bird life and in the field of photographic education." He, following Karsh, the portrait photographer, is the second Canadian to receive this great honor.

At about the same time the Saskatchewan Natural History Society was honoring Mr. Bird with a life membership at its annual meeting in Regina, October 27, 1950. Mr. Bird had read our editor's plea in the last issue of the BLUE JAY. He did something very tangible about it. The October 11 showing of his Camera Trails along Nature Trails was a real treat for all those able to attend. Our society netted \$187. It was Mr. Bird's wish that this money help to keep us going until we could enlarge our membership

sufficiently to remove all financial worries and allow us to improve the BLUE JAY and include pictures. Mr. Bird has given us many new memberships. Let us all follow his example, pay our yearly membership fees and do what we can to attract new members to our society.

In granting Mr. Dick Bird of Regina an honorary life membership in our society we are not thinking primarily of the recent financial boost which he has given us. We are thinking of the more important contributions which he has made to Natural History in Saskatchewan and the whole of North America. His pictures give all who see them an interest in and an appreciation of the beauties and wonders of nature. Mr. Bird's talks which are synchronized so well with his pictures always drive home the lesson that these things are worth conserving for future generations. Many, many times in the last fifteen years Mr. Bird has shown his excellent colored movies to school children or to small church or village groups with little or no monetary return for his hours of patient study and for the use of expensive equipment. His payment then was primarily in terms of the enjoyment which he brought to his audience and the sound basic ideas of conservation which he was spreading.

His reward now is in seeing an awakening appreciation of the beauties of nature and of the value of our natural resources. Growth of our society will be part of this reward, for in no small measure it is due to the fine work which he has done for natural history in Saskatchewan. We know that all the members of our society will be pleased to share in recognizing Mr. Bird's contribution to conservation and natural history, and to wish him success in all his future efforts.

- - - - -

Prompted by the suggestion of Mr. W. Yanchinski, of Naicam, it has been decided to delay each publication of the BLUE JAY by fifteen days so that each issue will more nearly coincide to the natural seasons. In future the deadline for the reception of material to be printed will be March 1, June 1, Sept. 1 and Dec. 1.

Do not wait until the very last to send in your stories and observations. If left until a late date you may forget the details.

- - - - -

All matter intended for publication in the BLUE JAY should be written as it is to appear in the magazine, and should be mailed to the Editor at 1077 Garnet Street, Regina.

- - - - -

This is the time of year to interest new members in our society. We have said this many times before and we will make the request again. Will each member endeavour to get one new member? The appeal is urgent. It seems a simple way to bring our membership to 1000, and with a little effort on the part of each this can be done.

- - - - -

A limited supply of back numbers of the BLUE JAY are available at 25 cents each.

- - - - -