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THE **BLUE JAY**

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

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Regular monthly meetings have been held in Yorkton since Christmas and these have been very well attended. We are greatly indebted to the city for allowing us to use the Council Chambers for our meetings. On January 18 H.S. Swallow, President, Yorkton Branch, Saskatchewan Fish and Game League, gave a most interesting talk on "Cycles and Fur-bearing Animals in Saskatchewan." He pointed out that although cycles in wildlife had been recognized since very early times and that all evidence suggested that these were closely linked up with sunspots, yet a great deal more work had to be done by observers in widely separated areas before the riddle could be solved. Records kept faithfully over a period of years by anyone interested in nature often proved, he said, of tremendous value to the scientist.

In February, C.C. Shaw showed us his beautiful kodachrome pictures taken in various corners of the province. Members were particularly interested in the views of the "badlands" in the south of the province and "close-ups" of some of the flowers which grow there, as well as some scenes in "Hidden Valley", the coulee just taken over by the Regina Natural History Society for a wildlife sanctuary. For March we arranged an archaeological night and W.J. McDonald exhibited a very large number of stone age implements which he has collected in the Yorkton area. These included beautifully fashioned arrow heads, crude scrapers and heavy stone hammers and one or two unique "finds" such as a stone plate engraved with the imprint of a hand. C.C. Shaw also showed examples of pottery excavated in Saskatchewan. Mr. McDonald has offered to place all his collection on permanent display as soon as a building can be found in which to start a Yorkton museum.

As we "go to press", we are looking forward to having Mrs. Elizabeth B. Flock give us a talk on April 10, on "Saskatchewan Wild Flowers"

The Regina Natural History Society has acquired the right for a number of years to a coulee in the Qu'Appelle Valley near Craven, which will be operated by the society as a wildlife sanctuary. We wish the Regina Club every success in their new project and shall be keenly interested in its progress.

Dr. D.S. Rawson, Professor of Biology, University of Saskatoon, organized an ornithological discussion group to meet every Tuesday of the current university term. We noted with interest that one evening was to be devoted to the discussion of "Saskatchewan Hawks" and were glad to be able to supply some of the Audubon Hawk Charts which we had on hand. These were the charts of western hawks which we distributed with the Blue Jay a year ago. A few copies are still available on request.

Dick Bird, A.R.F.S., F.Z.S., has just completed a two months tour of Eastern Canada under the auspices of the Associated Canadian Clubs. Eastern newspapers gave high praise to his pictures both for their beauty and photographic skill. One member received a letter from an eastern Canadian friend in which the writer, after seeing Mr. Bird's pictures, said "I never imagined that there were such beautiful birds on the bare ugly prairie."

A committee from the Yorkton Natural History Society consisting of Mrs. I.M. Priestly, W.J. McDonald and C.C. Shaw has been appointed to work with the members of the Yorkton Historical Society and the city council in the matter of the proposed Yorkton Museum.

We are very much indebted to Miss Mary Lang, who kindly loaned us her father's banding records, and to James H. Lang, who gave us details regarding his father's banding activities.