

THE EDITOR'S DESK

To naturalists in particular the spring and summer months are the most pleasant and interesting of all. We hope that you have and will enjoy these days to the full and record for us those interesting observations you make about the home, down by the lake, out on the open prairie, or along the shady path. There is no dirth of material, for plants and animals never tell the same story a second time.

We wish to thank our readers for the many helpful and encouraging letters which have reached this Desk. With your continued help we hope to maintain and, if possible, increase the value of this bulletin, as a medium of exchange for our opinions, nature observations, unusual records and discoveries.

We need also your financial support and the support of your friends. The printing of the last issue was financed entirely by the government through the co-operation of the provincial museum; but we are on our own now for the rest of the year and must sink or swim by our efforts alone. At the time of writing our paid-up subscriptions were only two hundred, less than half the number of copies mailed out. We had hoped by this date it would have been five hundred at least. There are still plenty of new subscription forms on the back page of the last issue, for only about thirty of these have been returned to the secretary. Please make an effort to pass some along to friends whom you know are really interested in the wild life of the province and its conservation. We feel that many will welcome the opportunity of membership in the Saskatchewan Natural History Society.

Money, at times, seems a necessary evil. Would that the BLUE JAY could be like Henry Thoreau, who had no desire for it. His ambition was only to study Nature, meditate on it and write so as to tell others what Nature said to him. We could then, like him, be free without restraint to see the Bluebird as a creature "carrying the sky on his back" and to hear the "faint, flitting, lisping notes" of the chickadee in winter, "like the tinkling of icicles in the grass."

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We take the liberty of quoting from "The Best out of Life" an article written for the Regina Leader Post by Ruth and Peter McLintock, members of the Regina Natural History Society:

"And these days when after six bleak months of Saskatchewan winter 'all suddenly the wind comes soft and spring is here again', there rises in all of us, even the most citified, the urge to get out of doors again; to hear the first robin; to find the first purple crocus; to explore for the first time the simple, varied joys that nature offers her followers. Like Donald Culross Peattie, they will discover that:

'A man need not know how to name all the oaks or the moths, or be able to recognize a synclinal fault, or to tell time by the stars, in order to possess nature. He may have his mind solely on growing larkspurs, or he may love a boat and a sail and a blue-eyed day at sea. He may have a bent for making paths, or banding birds, or he may be only an inveterate and curious walker.

But such a fellow has the best out of life."