

# The Blue Jay

Official publication of the

SASKATCHEWAN NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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The aim of the society is to continue and extend the work and ideas of the Founder of the BLUE JAY, the late Mrs. Isabel M. Priestly, in forming a medium of exchange of nature observations of mutual interest, and in working together for the protection and conservation of the wild life in Saskatchewan.

## HOW TO SUBSCRIBE

The BLUE JAY is published quarterly at a yearly subscription rate of one dollar. Anyone interested in any phase of nature will be a welcome member to this organization. All subscriptions will start and terminate on the first day of January.

All material for the BLUE JAY, as well as all subscriptions and business letters, should be sent to the Editor at 1077 Garnet Street, Regina.

Material for each of the four issues should be submitted not later than Feb. 15, May 15, Aug. 15, or Nov. 15, as the case may be.

THE EDITOR'S DESK

To most of us, March and April were months of expectation rather than realization. Up to May 7th there were no swollen buds on trees or shrubs: there was hardly a blade of green grass along the roadsides -- only the crocuses in certain areas braved the chilly winds. The elm trees bloomed, in Regina, on May 12, and if this is any criterion, spring was just twenty-two days later than it was in 1949.

But a late spring is often a blessing in disguise. April moisture was plentiful and within two weeks following May 8th, growth was phenomenal: the trees and shrubs were bursting their flower-buds; the leaves were beginning to uncurl themselves from the winter dormant state; song birds were everywhere and the countless small sloughs that dot the prairie were each harbouring at least one Mallard Duck and its proud and lovely mate.

The retarded growth of our wild fruit trees and shrubs will, no doubt, mean that the blossoms will mature free from the killing ravages of a late frost. All indications point to a lovely summer; to prairie flowers in profusion; to Saskatoons and other fruits in abundance. There will be more birds nesting at one time than we have known for years. Both the open prairie and the shades of the valley or forest will bring to those who love the out-of-doors a perfect satisfaction and enjoyment in the abundance of life which Nature, this year, has to offer.

Every bird and butterfly, every mammal and reptile, every plant flower and tree has a fascination of its own for those who would read it aright. It forms a page in the great volume of Nature which lies open before us, and without it there would be a blank; in Nature there is no space left unoccupied.

We invite our BLUE JAY readers to open this Book of Nature and to enjoy and digest as much of it as possible during the brief stay of summer. When the hike in the valley is over, when the sun has set and the day is done, let us sit on the hill in the glorious twilight of the West and ponder over, first the experiences of the day and then the soft magic of a prairie evening.