

Mrs. Priestly's friendly, informal style rapidly attracted a growing number of subscribers, while favorable comment concerning the scientific value of the information contained in the "Blue Jay" was received from leading ornithologists throughout Canada and the United States, and even the famous British Museum of Natural History requested a subscription. The late P. A. Taverner, author of "Birds of Canada", wrote that: "It is one of the meatiest things of the sort I have seen ----- There are many notes of interest worthy of the attention of naturalists."

In the fall of 1945, the secretary left Yorkton to begin his University studies, and Miss Ruth Beck took over his secretarial duties, while the Provincial Museum kindly offered to assist with the publishing of the "Blue Jay". It was intended at that time that Mrs. Priestly should move to Regina and carry on the editing of the "Blue Jay" from that point, in co-operation with the Provincial Museum. Such plans, however, came to an abrupt end with Mrs. Priestly's unexpected death on April 23, 1946.

Though they knew it would be next to impossible to maintain the high standard of quality set by Mrs. Priestly, the Y.N.H.S. determined to continue the publication of the "Blue Jay" as a tribute to Mrs. Priestly's memory. Cliff Shaw, although a very busy man, took on the heavy task of being both president of the Society and editor of the "Blue Jay." Miss Pauline Summers was elected secretary. However, the Society became progressively more handicapped as its keenest members, all former officers -- Miss Ethel Lloyd, Miss Gladys Fraser, J. R. Foreman, Jim Smith, Sgt. A. E. Smith, W. A. Brownlee, Jack Brownlee, Harvey Beck and Vernone Barnes -- left Yorkton.

Nevertheless, Mr. Shaw was fortunate in being able to secure the assistance of a capable group of assistant editors from other centers in the Province: Maurice G. Street of Nipawin, Wm. Fuller of Saskatoon, Lloyd O. Peterson of Indian Head, L. T. Carmichael of Regina, and Fred G. Bard, director of the Saskatchewan Provincial Museum. In this way, the publication of the "Blue Jay" has been carried on for the last two years.

By One of the Founders of the Society,

ISABEL M. PRIESTLY

Many subscribers to the "Blue Jay" did not have the privilege of knowing Mrs. Priestly to whom the magazine is now dedicated. For this reason, it was felt that this issue, would not be complete without some mention of her work.

Mrs. Priestly was the founder of the Yorkton Natural History Society, and also the originator of the "Blue Jay". From its inception until her death, she edited every issue, and wrote literally hundreds of letters each year in connection with its publication.

To those who knew and loved her, Mrs. Priestly's most outstanding characteristic was her joy in the world about her. She delighted in every aspect of nature, from the song of the robin to the shape of a snowflake. Children loved her, and were constantly bringing her everything from live bats to dead houseflies. No matter how simple their contribution, she always took time to discuss it with them, and many young people in Saskatchewan owe their interest in nature to Mrs. Priestly's enthusiasm. She was not only an outstanding naturalist, but was also a charming person.

THE HISTORY OF THE

The history of the world is a long and varied one, filled with the adventures and struggles of many nations and peoples. It is a story of growth, of discovery, and of the human spirit's quest for knowledge and progress. From the earliest days of man's existence, we have seen the rise of great civilizations, the fall of empires, and the birth of new worlds. Each era has its own unique challenges and triumphs, and it is through the study of history that we can learn from the mistakes of the past and strive for a better future. The history of the world is not just a collection of facts and dates, but a living, breathing story that shapes our lives and our understanding of the world around us.

At the time of her death, Mrs. Priestly was planning to move to Regina, and intended to take the "Blue Jay" with her, continuing its publication from there. Now, perhaps, if it is the sincere wish of all the subscribers of the "Blue Jay" a Provincial Organization will be formed, which will publish the "Blue Jay" from Regina. We cannot help but feel glad that Mrs. Priestly's plans are at last materializing. We hope the "Blue Jay" will continue to be dedicated to her, in memory of her important contribution to the study of natural history in Saskatchewan.

Ruth Beck.

PHENOLOGY

Have you ever considered why our native Grey Alder puts forth blossoms ahead of leaves or the reason behind the fact that Witch Hazel puts forth flowers while the snow still remains in the woods? These phenomena and countless others occurring in wild and cultivated plants form the basis of the intriguing study of phenology. Phenology is the science of the relationship of local climate to periodicity of living things such as leafing, blooming, seed ripening, etc.

There are increasing demands for information having to do with forest seed setting in various parts of Canada. We often hear of reports of success or failure of the apple crop in Eastern and Western Canada but how many people are conscious of the reproductive value of a good crop of seed from our most valuable tree species, the white spruce? White spruce has been known at times to break its own branches with its near half-ton load of seed-producing cones. At other times cones are scarcely visible,

The Saskatchewan Forest Service has been recording observations on the cone crops of forest trees as supplied by its field men for a number of years. The aim of this survey, is to discover the periodicity of favourable seed years for the profitable harvesting of nursery seed in periods of abundance. Systematic phenological observations tied with climate might point the way to improved forest management practices and will provide authentic information on one of the fundamental factors of the regeneration of a forest, that is, the production of seed.

Cone Crop Census in the Forest Region of Saskatchewan by Major Forest Districts.

	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948
<u>White Spruce (Picea canadensis)</u>							
District							
Meadow Lake	3	1	2	1	2	1.3	2.8
Prince Albert	2.5	1	3	1	1	1.5	2.8
Hudson Bay	3	1	2	1	1.5	1.5	3.2
Average	2.8	1	2.3	1	1.5	1.4	2.9
<u>Jack Pine (Pinus banksiana)</u>							
Meadow Lake	3	1	3	1	2	1.6	2.5
Prince Albert	3	1	2	1	2	2.5	2.7
Hudson Bay	3	1	2	1	2	2.3	
Average	3	1	2.3	1	2	2.1	2.6