

J. A. GUNN,
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THE

BULLETIN J A Y

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.

SECRETARY'S ADDRESS:

Box 642,
Yorkton, Sask.

Membership fee 25¢ per year

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The spring of 1943 will certainly be remembered as "the cold spring." Many of the migrant birds were behind schedule and some of the flowering plants were two weeks later than usual in coming into bloom. A marked feature of this spring's bird migration in Yorkton was the fact that many of the smaller birds which usually spend a few days with us on their way to their northern nesting grounds, passed us up entirely this year. We saw no Fox or Harris Sparrows, few Myrtle Warblers, only a small number of White-throated Sparrows and no White-crowned. Yet in Regina White-crowned Sparrows were reported "everywhere" on May 12-14 and Harris Sparrows in a "veritable swarm" on the outskirts of that city on May 15. Did these birds press on with fewer "stop-overs" than usual, on to their northern haunts?

With this issue of the "Blue Jay" ends Volume 1. When we brought out the first number last October, it was on a veritable "shoestring", both as regards funds and news. In fact there were moments when, having taken "quarters" from people, we wondered if we would be able to make good our promise of four issues! However all that is past history, the response we have had to our bulletin is more than encouraging and all work connected with its production has been more than repaid by the number of delightful and interesting contacts we have made with people in all corners of the province. And we sincerely hope that the "Blue Jay" will continue to convey news of happenings in the outdoor world to an ever-widening circle.

The question whether the twenty-five cents membership fee is sufficient has faced us. That amount barely covers the cost of paper and stencils, but in view of the fact that the "Blue Jay" is the means that our club has chosen as its main method of encouraging an interest in native wild life, we have decided against any increase in membership fees, which will remain at twenty-five cents. But, at the same time, we shall be most grateful to anyone who feels they would like to give us an extra sustaining donation, in addition to the membership fee.

One sometimes hears the criticism that country people are not interested in nature. With this view we do not agree. The many letters we have received, show that country residents are definitely interested in nature, but the main difficulty seems to be that country people have so few sources from which they can obtain information about the things they see. We feel that there is a wide field for greater dissemination of nature lore. We should like to hear a greater number of popular radio talks given on nature subjects; read more nature, or bird, columns in the newspapers; and have travelling exhibits organized and sent out from the Provincial Museum. In any post-war programme for making country life more attractive such points should not be overlooked.

We are most grateful to Dr. A.L. Rand, of the National Museum of Canada, for his interest in sending us their list of the Bats recorded for Saskatchewan. As we have stated before, very little is known of the smaller animals of the prairie provinces, and the National Museum at Ottawa is anxious to obtain specimens of various species. Perhaps some of our members, particularly the boys, might like to undertake such work and we will be glad to furnish details regarding collecting specimens for museum purposes.

Isabel M. Priestly,
President,
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