

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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For our last meeting of the winter session held April 10, we invited Mrs. Elizabeth Burnett Flock, Regina, to be guest speaker. Mrs. Flock gave us a most delightful talk on Saskatchewan's Wild Flowers, which was illustrated by colour slides, the property of the Regina Natural History Society. Her talk certainly aroused much interest among members on the great need for protecting native wild flowers.

A special meeting was arranged for June 5, at which W.D. (Bill) Carrick, recently released from the R.C.A.F., showed his outstanding pictures (movies and 'stills') of bird life in various parts of Canada. While on service with the Coastal Command, Mr. Carrick utilized his leave to obtain unique photographs of many of Canada's less familiar sea birds. Of particular interest to prairie naturalists are his pictures of nesting shore birds at Churchill - birds most of us know only as migrants in spring and fall.

With this issue of the "Blue Jay" we are losing our energetic secretary, C. Stuart Houston, who will be starting his pre-medical course next Fall. Every reader of the "Blue Jay" is greatly indebted to Stuart; not only has he been a most enterprising and conscientious secretary, but he has also been "printer and publisher" of every issue of our bulletin. When our executive decided, in September 1942, to publish a bulletin for the exchange of records with other naturalists with whom we were in contact, we "ran off" 75 copies of the first issue and felt we were being extravagant with paper! Since then, as we have stated before, the response to our effort has been far greater than we ever anticipated, with the result that the production of the "Blue Jay" has become a bigger and bigger job with each issue - over 400 copies of this July issue being required. However, Stuart has stuck most faithfully at the task and is deserving of the thanks and appreciation of every member.

We also want to extend our sincere thanks to Harvey Beck, an officer who has always been willing to undertake all the odd jobs in connection with the "Blue Jay" and our local activities in Yorkton. Harvey plans to go to university this Fall and make entomology his career. We also say a most hearty "Thank you" to Neil Black, another Yorkton member who has been a most dependable worker. Neil is also entering pre-medicine. The best of luck to all three of you, we are going to miss you greatly.

Chief activities of the Regina Natural History Society recently have been in connection with the club's Wildlife Sanctuary in the Qu'Appelle Valley. A "nature trail" has been laid out with many trees, shrubs and other items of interest labelled by L.T. Carmichael, and altogether the whole project presents great possibilities.

We are pleased to get in touch with the Alberta Natural History Society, which is functioning actively under the presidency of Kerry Wood, well known from his radio talks on wildlife. This spring the Alberta Society distributed 1500 Bird-box sheets to 250 Alberta schools. (We have some copies of this excellent sheet for the interest of members). The Secretary of the Alberta N.H.S. is E.R. Wells, Red Deer, Alta.

We were very glad that B.W. Cartwright, Chief Naturalist for Ducks Unlimited, was able to spend two days in Yorkton early in June. We were also glad to have the pleasure of making the acquaintance of Bill Carrick while he was working for two weeks at Leech Lake with J.H. Wilson, who is again banding ducks for Ducks Unlimited on that project this season. Mr. Carrick is now at Brooks, Alta. and will later be carrying out some investigations for D.U. at Caron, Sask.