

# NATURE IN TRUST



*Regina Natural History Society*

## NATURE IN TRUST

An Account  
of the  
*Regina Natural History Society*  
1933 - 1990

Regina Natural History Society, 1992  
Regina, Saskatchewan

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Sketch by Mollie Lawrence.

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## INTRODUCTION

The Regina Natural History Society is the oldest natural history society in Saskatchewan, having been in continuous existence since 1933. The history of its first 25 years was compiled in 1958 by Marguerite E. Robinson. A group of senior members of the Society continues the story in *Nature in Trust*, which is being published to celebrate the Society's sixtieth anniversary.

When Kathleen Donauer was President of the Regina Natural History Society in 1986-1989, she revived interest in the history of the society by preparing an outline of its work and activities, which she presented with kodachrome slides at a meeting on 18 January 1988. She then proposed that a group of senior members should organize under the Government of Canada's New Horizons Program to write a history of the Regina Natural History Society. This idea bore fruit on 19 March 1990 when Kay Ferguson initiated the first meeting of a group of members at her home to discuss the feasibility of such a project and how to plan and finance it. An application was made to the federal government's New Horizons Program, and additional support was provided to the Regina Natural History Society by the Saskatchewan Natural History Society. It was decided that the history would begin as Mrs. Robinson's did in 1933 and cover the years from the formation of the Society up to 1990.

The task of researching the various topics and of writing items dealing with them for inclusion in the history was taken on by various individual members of what came to be called the Senior Naturalists History Group. The services of Gillian Richardson were obtained to put all this material together and to edit it. The group met with her on many occasions to review submissions and develop a policy for handling them. The project has been a most interesting example of a cooperative activity, and the writers beg the reader's forbearance for whatever shortcomings this method of proceeding may have produced.

During the years from 1933 to 1990, many members of the Regina Natural History Society have contributed countless hours to further their Society's objectives. They cannot all be mentioned in this account, but we have tried to highlight some of these people and the events in which they were engaged. This book pays tribute to all members who have worked individually and collectively to achieve the aims and objectives of the Society as adopted in its first constitution in February 1933:

a) To investigate, study, discuss and conduct researches in natural science.

- b) To maintain an open mind to grasp the meaning of conditions new and old affecting the wild life of our province.  
c) To devise measures for the protection and conservation of wild life and to use their influence in all cases toward this end.

Margaret Belcher



Swainson's Hawk - familiar buteo of the plains. Sketch by Fred Lahrman.

## APPRECIATION

The Senior Naturalists' Board of Directors consisted of Jessie Bailey, Margaret Belcher (who replaced Ruth Tempel), Frank Brazier, Kay Ferguson, Leslie Harmsworth, George Ledingham, Christine MacDonald, Loraine MacPherson, Mary Sykes and Bill White. Senior Regina Natural History Society members who were not members of the Board but who contributed to the preparation and writing of the history include Al and Betty Binnie, Joyce Deutscher, Elmer Fox and Jack MacKenzie.

A special acknowledgement is made to the work of Ruth Tempel, one of the first to volunteer, who set up the section on the Bird Counts and continued to work with us until a few months before her untimely death.

Thank you Gillian Richardson for consenting to be our Editor, for your ability to correct but maintain the style of each writer, for your quiet yet firm direction and your patience during meetings when as seniors we digressed telling stories of the past. Although all writers worked diligently, a special tribute must be paid to Mary Sykes who kept methodical notes from reading the minutes, wrote many sections and was generous with her notes to help others. Another special thank you to Margaret Belcher who put aside her work on the history of the Saskatchewan Natural History Society to write several items and attend meetings where editorial work was being done. A big thank you to all the writers for the many volunteer hours of work researching, writing and attending endless meetings to bring *Nature in Trust* to fruition.

The Board wishes to acknowledge grants from New Horizons of Health and Welfare Canada and from Saskatchewan Trust Funds of the Saskatchewan Natural History Society. Thank you to the Treasurer of RNHS for handling the SNHS grant and to Bill White for being Treasurer for the New Horizons grant.

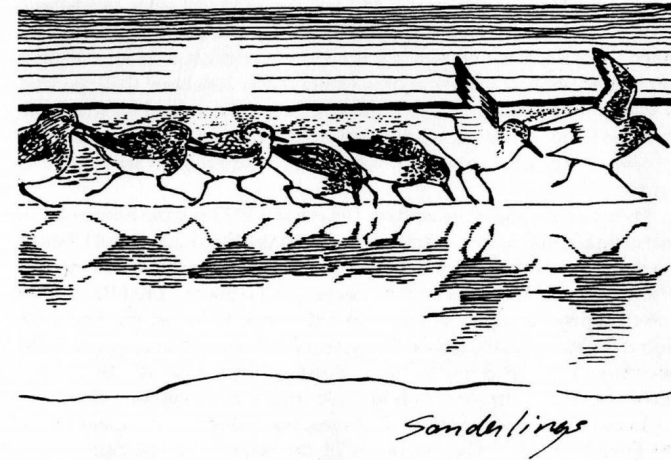
Thank you to the Museum of Natural History for the frequent use of the copy machine with the assistance of Donna Tanton. A member of RNHS, Margaret Hutchison, Archivist, started us off on the right foot with a group information session at Saskatchewan Archives. And a special word of thanks to Bob Kreba, long time member of RNHS and a Museum staff member, who found boxes of RNHS papers including the first minute book for 1933-1958 in a store room at the Museum just months before they would have been destroyed by the smoke from the 1990 fire.

As with most RNHS events, a social time with tea, coffee and delicious goodies followed each meeting. Thank you to Jessie Bailey, Kay Ferguson, Christine MacDonald, Mary Sykes and Bill White for hosting meetings.

Our sources of information have included Regina Natural History Society Minutes, Newsletters and correspondence, Regina *Leader Post* news clippings, information from the SNHS *Blue Jay* and *The First Twenty-Five Years* by Marguerite Robinson and interviews and personal recollections.

We extend our appreciation to all who have generously assisted with *Nature in Trust*.

Kay Ferguson, Coordinator



## ILLUSTRATIONS AND PHOTOGRAPHS

Members who have contributed photographs are Jessie Bailey, Kay Ferguson, Bob Kreba, Jack MacKenzie, Jon Triffo. Drawings by Mollie Lawrence are reprinted with permission from *A Second Look* by Elizabeth Cruickshank, those by Harry Flock from *Wild Flowers of the Prairie Provinces* by Elizabeth Burnett Flock. Fred Lahrman's illustrations are reprinted from *Birds of Regina* by Margaret Belcher. Trevor Herriot's sketches are from the RNHS *Newsletters* during the years he was editor. Fred Lahrman's sketch of the Museum is from *The First Twenty-Five Years* by Marguerite Robinson.

## ORIGIN OF THE REGINA NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

The Regina Natural History Society was formed in 1933 during the most devastating drought and depression that had threatened the Prairies in recorded history. High winds blew topsoil which filled ditches and covered fences. Concern for the survival of plants and animals, together with lack of money for expensive amusements, provided incentive for formation of the Society.

Early in January 1933, four men met in the Regina Normal School to discuss the creation of a natural history society. They were Fred Bradshaw, H.C. Andrews, E.H.M. Knowles and J.H. Taylor. Bradshaw, who had studied, photographed and lectured about wildlife, had been Director of the Museum since 1928. Andrews, a science teacher who later became Principal of Saskatchewan Teachers' College, had a very active interest in the outdoors. Knowles was a barrister who pursued the study of wildlife as a hobby, and Taylor, a Regina businessman, was an avid bird watcher who enjoyed leading field trips.

They called a meeting, and on 16 January 1933 people interested in nature gathered at the Normal School and the Regina Natural History Society was born. Taylor acted as Chairman, Bradshaw was elected President, and Knowles became Secretary-Treasurer. Fred Bard, who later became Museum Director in 1947, was a charter member and second Secretary-Treasurer. The annual fee was set at 25 cents, with meetings to be held on the third Monday of each month. Bradshaw gave the first address on "Identification of Some Common Birds."

A constitution, drafted by Knowles, was adopted at a meeting on 20 February 1933. The purposes of the Society, as set out in this constitution, were the study of natural science and the conservation of wildlife.

The first public meeting of the Society was held in March 1933. J.C. Campbell from the Department of the Interior, Ottawa, showed films on National Parks and Sanctuaries. At later meetings during the first year, lectures on birds were given. In the fall, Edgar Houldsworth spoke on the rocks of southern Saskatchewan, and H.S. McLurg gave a talk on astronomy. The first nature hikes occurred during May.

The inaugural year of the Regina Natural History Society ended with 72 members and cash assets of \$12.99.

Bill White

1	Taylor, J.H. MR	2361 WINNIPEG ST	56	CHERRY, T.A. MRS.	PARKS DEPT.
2	Taylor, J.H. MR	2361 WINNIPEG ST	57	Phillips, M.L. Miss	Gl'Appelle Bldg. Sd
3	Flash, F.A. Miss	2023 GARNET ST	58	Vincent, Mrs. M.S.	2464 Ethel St
4	Doody, C.W. MRS	2315 ANQUAS ST	59	Slaughter, Mrs. J	675 Douglas Ave
5	Rigby, W.C. MR	2277 STEPHEN ST	60	THOMAS, E. Miss	1509 - 13 <sup>th</sup> AVE
6	Smith, Georgia DR	20 FRONTENAC APTS	61	BARD, FRED MR	3431 Douglas Ave
7	Smith, Georgia MRS	20 FRONTENAC APTS	62	BERRY, FRAZER MR	722-17 <sup>th</sup> Ave
8	FLOCK, J.H. MR	724-17 <sup>th</sup> AVE	63	DUNNONS, H.A.	2242 SCOTT ST
9	FLOCK, J.H. MRS	724-17 <sup>th</sup> AVE	64	YATES, Miss GRACE	2 Ethy Apts.
10	FLOCK, FRANCES Miss	724-17 <sup>th</sup> AVE	65	Talbot, Mr. Martin	2216 LORNE ST
11	Ellis, MARY Miss	11 LONESCOTT APT.	66	STRAITON, MR G.	2812 Victoria Ave
12	Blacklock, H. Miss	2170 HALIFAX ST.	67	Chaplin, Mr. A.G.	2734 RETAILER ST
13	Corballis, H.J. MR	1516 COLLEGE AVE	68	Chaplin, Mrs. A.G.	2734 RETAILER ST
14	Coward, A.B. MR	2350 ST. JOHN ST.	69	BURROWS, MR. G.S.	1925 SMITH ST.
15	BENSON, R.F. MR	2939 COLLEGE AVE.	70	BURROWS, Mrs. G.S.	1925 SMITH ST.
16	Knowliden, H. MR	121 LEOPOLD CRESC.	71	SHAW, MR. J. B.	2241 HUNTINGTON ST
17	Knowliden, H. MRS	121 LEOPOLD CRESC.	72	McCulloch, Don	2 Clifton Court
18	Pierpont, W. MR	4715 - 8 <sup>th</sup> AVE	73	Lewis, Miss O.M.	2076 SCOTT ST
19	DARKE, F.N. MR	2210 COLLEGE AVE	74	CLAUKE, MISS E.	904 RETAILER ST
20	DARKE, F.N. MRS	2210 COLLEGE AVE	75	Grassie, James	1604 COLLEGE AVE
21	Ellis, Jane Miss	11 LONESCOTT	76	Cook, Mr. Charles	3004 ALBERT ST
22	Willms, T. MRS	3633 VICTORIA AVE	77	Rugh, Mr. R.M.	122 HUNTINGTON APTS
23	GREEN, F.H.C. MR	2728 - 20 <sup>th</sup> AVE	78	Worpe, Miss Ellen	69 HUNTINGTON APTS
24	Bradshaw, F. MR	2816 DEWDNEY AVE	79	Munro, Mr. E.C.	1016 COLLEGE AVE
25	Hunt, T.W. MR	2269 ROBINSON ST	80	Cullum, Mr. C.C.	2275 Mc Intyre St
26	Hunt, T.W. MRS	2269 ROBINSON ST	81	Bomb, Mrs. H.C.	3045 CAMP ST
27	WALKER, E.D. MR.	22 ANQUAS CRESCENT	82	FLEMING, MR. E.J.	1453 ATHOL ST.
28	WALKER, E.D. MRS.	22 ANQUAS CRESCENT	83	GREENHART, MR. L.	1363 ROBINSON ST.
29	Lythe, W. MR	1576 ATHOL ST.	84	FIELDER, Mrs. J.L.	1922 ROBINSON ST
30	Boyd, H. MR	2 Victoria Court	85	FIELDER, MR. J.L.	1922 ROBINSON ST
31	Boyd, H. MRS	2 Victoria Court	86	Thompson, Miss M.E.	22 Regina Court
32	PERRY, P.C. MR	2224 CAMERON ST.	87	ETHER, MR. A.E.	1411 KING ST.
33	PERRY, P.C. MRS	2224 CAMERON ST.	88	SMITH, MISS L.	15 NEWELL APTS
34	Ball, Edna Miss	2119 LARNE ST.	89	Scrimgeour, Mrs.	2918 RETAILER ST.
35	Griffiths, W.J. MR	2041 ANQUAS ST	90	Strom, Miss O	20 NEWELL APTS
36	Sanderson, James MR	1417 ARCADE ST	91	Wharton, Miss Elsie	2269 BRAD ST
37	Knowles, E.H.M. MR	1104 COLLEGE AVE	92	Irwin, Miss S.M.	5 Victoria Court
38	Bratton, E.J. MR	2328 RAE ST	93	Borges, Mrs. P.	1114 - 13 <sup>th</sup> AVE
39	Stewart, J. O. Mrs	2322 TORONTO ST	94	Morseau, Miss Marie	2076 SCOTT ST
40	LAMONT, L.A. MRS	4516 COLLEGE AVE	95	Sherlock, Mr. W <sup>th</sup>	2327 RAE ST
41	ETHER, A.S. MR	1411 KING ST	96	Berry, Mr. W.J.	722-17 <sup>th</sup> AVE
42	Ross, L. Miss	2100 COLLEGE AVE	97	Hinkson, Mr. E.W.	3145 RAE ST
43	LANGFORD, A. Miss	Gl'Appelle Bldg. School	98	Slaughter, Mr. W <sup>th</sup>	675 Douglas Ave
44	Shaw, C. MR	1511 - 11 <sup>th</sup> AVE	99	Went, Mr. R.	Normal School
45	Albhill, Nick MR	536 - 8 <sup>th</sup> AVE			
46	Wilson, T. MR	3033 - VICTORIA AVE			
47	Colbeck, Edna Mrs	27 LEOPOLD CRESC			
48	Resch, G.A. MR	2454 ATKINSON ST			
49	Resch, G.A. MRS	2454 ATKINSON ST			
50	Resch, Rachel Mrs	2454 ATKINSON ST			
51	Resch, James MR	2454 ATKINSON ST			
52	Short, R.P. MR	Y.M.C.A.			
53	YAEGER, L. MR	2317 ROSE ST			
54	YAEGER, L. MRS	2317 ROSE ST			
55	CHERRY, T.A. MR	PARKS DEPT.			

1934 membership list.

## THE SASKATCHEWAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

The first museum displays of natural history in Regina were established in 1906 by the Saskatchewan Historical Society. The exhibit which comprised a collection of fur-bearing animals and game birds was funded by a grant of \$557.70 from the Department of Agriculture for a display at the Dominion Fair in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Later, it was housed in the East Wing of the recently completed Legislative Building until much of it was destroyed by the tornado that struck Regina in 1912. It was moved to the Normal School on College Avenue in the spring of 1916 and remained there on display until the Natural History Museum was built in 1955 except for four war years when it was stored to make room for the Commonwealth Air Training Plan.

It was here in 1933 that the Director of the Museum, Fred Bradshaw, helped to organize the Regina Natural History Society. The first meetings were held in the basement workroom of his assistant Fred Bard. This mutually helpful arrangement between the Museum and the Society has continued ever since.

One of the first acts of the new Regina Natural History Society was to petition the provincial government to open the Museum on Sunday afternoons in the winter months, encouraging young people to attend. Society members contributed many hours serving as guides and checkroom helpers, by giving nature talks and stimulating interest through the press. The Museum was also asked to put on seasonal window displays in downtown Regina. This was ably carried out by Fred Bard and Cliff Shaw.

Although World War II had severely curtailed Museum activities, it was in 1944 that RNHS members T.W.Hunt, Elizabeth Flock and Robert Mackenzie presented a brief to the provincial government urging the construction of a provincial museum. With Fred Bard as Director in 1947 the Museum was once again opened on Sundays with the help of Society volunteers. Attendance sometimes reached 1000 visitors. A well-known member of the Society, Elizabeth Cruickshank, suggested that a new museum would be a fitting and lasting memorial to the pioneer citizens of Saskatchewan in celebration of the province's 50th anniversary. In May 1955 the present Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History was opened to the public. Occupying the southeast corner of College and Albert Streets, the graceful tyndal-stone structure features friezes of Saskatchewan wildlife and bas-relief sculpture of pioneers gazing out over a wide expanse of lawns and flower beds suggesting the open prairie.

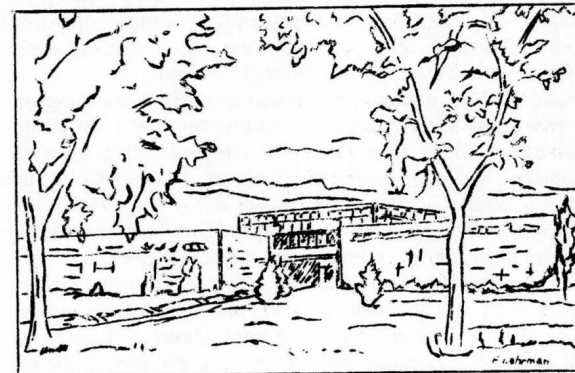
RNHS meetings, which had been held in the Regina Normal School and later in Regina College and in the Trading Company Building during the war now had a permanent home in the Museum auditorium. The World Wanderings film series and Audubon Screen Tours sponsored by the Society were also held there for many years.

An aquarium display with native fish species was presented to the Museum by the Society in 1958. Members have often assisted at public openings of new Museum cases or displays and at open houses or workshops. Many of the Society's most knowledgeable and valuable members have also been members of the Museum staff. Director Fred Bard remained an executive member representing the Museum until his retirement in 1969.

A movement which was begun in 1984 to build a new Norman Mackenzie Art Gallery on land adjacent to the Museum was strongly opposed by many RNHS members. Kathleen Donauer, RNHS President at the time, entered the high profile public controversy to express members' concerns that such an addition would mar the architecture and perspective of the Museum and its surroundings. The plan was dropped in 1987 following a plebiscite in Regina for which Society members had petitioned. The Museum was later declared to be a Heritage Site.

A disastrous smoke fire in the Museum in February 1990 damaged many exhibits beyond repair. Volunteers from RNHS helped in the cleanup. Diligent work by the Museum staff resulted in a reopening of some of the exhibits in August 1990 and the return of the RNHS to the auditorium for their meetings in September.

Mary Sykes



Sketch by Fred Lahrman.

## PROGRAMS

### REVIEW OF PROGRAMS 1933-1990

Meetings in the early years were quite formal and often opened with "O Canada" and closed with "God Save the King/Queen." A report usually appeared in the *Leader Post*. Programs were put on by several members at each meeting drawing upon their own particular areas of interest such as birds, flowers, geology and astronomy.

In February 1935 Dick Bird gave an illustrated talk on his trips to photograph wildlife in the Amazon, Africa, Australia, Guadelupe and Korea.

At the September 1939 meeting held in Darke Hall, the Society sold tickets to the public for a presentation by Ernest Thompson Seton and his wife Julia. The Lieutenant Governor, A.P.McNab, and his wife, were in attendance. The Setons gave an address based on their studies of Pueblo lore entitled "Indian Life and Legends." Julia Seton was dressed in white buckskin with beadwork and wore a feathered headdress.

Meetings continued throughout World War II but were held at the Regina Trading Company on Scarth Street where Regina College was relocated. In 1943 the RNHS invited Emil Liens of Homer, Minnesota to show his film on otters. He brought two otters with him, named Qu'Appelle and Tony. To demonstrate their training, Liens released them into the room and showed how he could call them back to him.

At a meeting in 1948 A.T.Cockburn, formerly Assistant Superintendent of London Zoo (England), presented a movie on rare animals at the zoo. Another program in the same year was given by Dan McCowan, Banff naturalist. Held at Knox Church, the program opened with a serenade and minuet played by a string orchestra from Central Collegiate, conducted by Don Ewing.

During the 50s, members continued to provide the programs at many meetings. Among them was Ralph Stueck of Abernethy who showed his own films. Father Peters of Campion College gave several presentations and often brought live animals such as a Great Horned Owl, a toad and a salamander to illustrate his talks. Harry Lillie, a Scottish surgeon and conservationist, gave a presentation describing his studies of trapping methods in the Canadian north.

When the new Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History was opened in 1955, RNHS meetings were then held in the auditorium.

At the October 1956 meeting Fred Bard, Director of the Museum, described the management program for preservation of the endangered Whooping Crane. The proposed method involved removing

one of the usual two eggs from a Whooping Crane nest and placing it in the care of a foster parent, a Sandhill Crane, to incubate and rear the chick.

Al Oeming, President of the Edmonton Zoological Society, along with falconers Kip McKeever and Jenny Walker, gave the address at the March 1958 meeting. A live Snowy Owl, a Goshawk and Peregrine Falcons were on display.

At the Annual General Meeting in 1963, a talk entitled "Pesticides and Beginning of Research in Effectiveness" was given by Dr. Edwards. In the same year, at the October meeting, members learned how the Indians tanned moose hides, methods of fleshing and the final smoking of them from Harry Moody, aged 76 years, who had worked at the trading post at Denare Beach. He also described how the women chewed birch bark to make unique designs on it.

Two interesting slide presentations in 1967 were "Uganda" by Tom Gentles and "Galapagos" by Lloyd Hipperson.

At the November 1970 meeting, Robert Nero and R. Taylor of Winnipeg described their work on the "Great Gray Owl in Manitoba."

For the Christmas program in 1971 David Mech, biologist from Minnesota, showed a film based on his research on wolves of Isle Royale and the Superior National Forest in northeast Minnesota.

Jim Jowsey gave an illustrated talk in January 1976 on the upcoming publication *Wildflowers Across the Prairies* (Western Producer Prairie Books, 1977) co-authored by Jowsey, Fenton Vance and James McLean. Other guests also based their programs on their new books. Stuart Houston spoke about "John Richardson, Saskatchewan's First Naturalist" and about his book, *Arctic Ordeal* (McGill-Queen's University Press, 1984). Canadian writer, photographer and naturalist Lyn Hancock described her adventures during work on her new book *Looking for the Wild* (Doubleday Canada, 1986). And David Henry gave an informative presentation on his book, *Red Fox - The Catlike Canine* (The Smithsonian Institution Press, 1986).

Due to the fire at the Museum early in 1990, meetings of the RNHS were moved to the City Hall Forum. In March, Bob Long, filmmaker and former member of the Museum staff, showed his award winning film, *Aspen - A Dance of Leaves*. The film has appeared on BBC and PBS television.

After meetings resumed at the Museum in the fall, Lorne Scott, former member of the Museum staff and currently Wascana Centre Authority Naturalist, was featured on the November program. His timely address on conservation and habitat was entitled, "Yours to Enjoy, Yours to Protect."

Over the 57 years of Society meetings, there has been a wealth of talent within the membership which has been generously shared;



one outstanding example is the popular "Members Night" held each December, in which individuals show their own slides. In recent years, Bob Kreba, Frank Switzer and Jon Triffo have delighted members with their particular flair for photography.

The RNHS can be proud of its record of the many and varied programs which have been viewed by the membership.

Jessie Bailey

## THE AUDUBON SCREEN TOURS IN REGINA

The Audubon Screen Tours were originated by the National Audubon Society of New York as a means of stimulating public awareness of the values and need for conservation of the natural world. The Tours involved a series of top quality outdoor all-colour motion pictures personally presented by men and women outstanding in the fields of natural history and conservation.

On 21 November 1952 Margaret Belcher, Secretary of the Regina Natural History Society, informed the membership that the offer of a special preview lecture by Fran William Hall to introduce the Audubon Screen Tours had been accepted at the regular meeting of the Society on 17 November. In addition, two Tours were booked for 2 March and 18 May 1953.

Fran William Hall's lecture, "Four Corners," was presented to the RNHS on 26 November in the Science Theatre of Regina College. The 1953 Tours were held in the Reid Auditorium of Scott Collegiate. The Tour Committee consisted of G.F.Ledingham, W.A.Ross, E.W.Hinckson, H.W.Stevenson and B.Knox. The Working Committee included M.Belcher, D.Bonser, J.H. and Elizabeth Flock, F.W.Lahrman, G.F.Ledingham, R.C.Mackenzie and J.H.Taylor. Projection was taken care of by F.S.Robinson and Reception by W.A.Ross and H.W.Stevenson.

While the two Tours drew 352 people, the undertaking incurred a loss of \$132. When the program was being planned such a contingency had been foreseen and 11 members collectively guaranteed that they would cover any deficit.

The Society did not again agree to handle Audubon Screen Tours until 1956-57 and then the series was undertaken in co-operation with the Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History which had been opened the previous year. By this time, Robert W.Nero was Assistant Director of the Museum and he was an enthusiastic proponent of the Tours. The RNHS thereupon contracted for five shows for the 1956-57 season, and subsequently did the same for the following three seasons.

Before each season, the membership was urged by the Executive to support the programs to ensure their success. For the sum of three dollars, most season tickets were sold each time. Those members who had generously covered the initial deficit of the 1952-53 Tour were reimbursed, with the Society's thanks.

The last show of the 1956-57 Tour was presented by Dick Bird, founder of Bird Films, Regina. As Bird was a Regina native and a member of RNHS in its early years, he agreed to give two extra shows for children and students at reduced rates.

During each Tour, the featured narrator was the dinner guest of members of the Executive, so that quite a number met at least one of the well-known naturalists visiting for the Tours.

### The Programs

#### 1956/57 Tour

26 Sept.	W.J.Breckenridge: <i>Paul Bunyan Country</i>
19 Nov.	E.P.Edwards: <i>Land of the Scarlet Macaw</i>
27 Feb.	H.Cleaves: <i>Animals at Night in Color</i>
3 Apr.	R.Hermes: <i>Once Upon an Island</i>
1 May	D.Bird: <i>Alphabet of the Out of Doors</i>

#### 1957/58 Tour

8 Oct.	C.P.Grant: <i>Wildlife of Marsh and Mountain</i>
27 Nov.	F.W.Hall: <i>Hawaii, U.S.A.</i>
6 Jan.	H.L.Orians: <i>The Land the Glaciers Forgot</i>
3 Feb.	B. Harwell: <i>Forgotten Country</i>
1 Apr.	O.S. Pettingill, Jr.: <i>Penguin Summer</i>

#### 1958/59 Tour

9 Oct.	W.H.Wagoner, Jr.: <i>A Touch of the Tropics</i>
27 Nov.	A.D.Cruickshank: <i>River of the Crying Bird</i>
23 Jan.	C.Mohr: <i>Outdoor Almanac</i>
27 Feb.	W.Ferguson: <i>High Horizons</i>
24 Apr.	G.H.Orians: <i>Great Smoky Skyland</i>

#### 1959/60 Tour

16 Nov.	E.Scott: <i>Rocky Mountain Rambles</i>
11 Jan.	B.Foster: <i>Roving Three Continents</i>
5 Feb.	J.Taft: <i>The Shandon Hills</i>
11 Mar.	C.P.Lyons: <i>The Right to Live</i>
7 Apr.	F.W.Hall: <i>Puerto Rico, U.S.A.</i>

Frank Brazier

## WORLD WANDERING SERIES 1956-1958

At the 1954 Annual Meeting of the Saskatchewan Natural History Society in Yorkton, we were privileged to view some of the prize winning films with a natural history theme from the Yorkton Film Festival which was also being held that day. I was so impressed by their quality that I arranged to borrow six films, on short term loan from various High Commissioners' offices in Ottawa, for showing in Regina.

During the following week, I scurried around organizing a public viewing. I remember arranging for the use of a high school auditorium for a night, a projectionist, and publicity. We used the radio stations in the city for announcements, got a news release out, and I made a personal appearance on CKCK TV with Johnny Sandison to express our good fortune in being able to borrow these outstanding nature films for Reginans to view. Admission was free, and when the fateful night was over, we realized we had an outstanding success. The auditorium was crowded and a silver collection yielded a satisfactory sum.

It was obvious that natural history films in color had a strong appeal for many people. Accordingly, I wrote to the High Commissioners for South Africa and Australia for a list of their films and borrowing terms. The response was such that I was able to borrow a few interesting films from each country. An auditorium was engaged and publicity was launched. I called the first show "African Safari" and the next one "Australian Corroboree." Molly Lawrence designed large posters and Johann Toews ran off a dozen of each on his blueprinter, for display in libraries, high schools and stores. Each show played to capacity houses, and while no admission was charged, the silver collection enabled us to pay all expenses and to bank a surplus.

*More  
World  
Wandering*

*... the Easy Way*  
(1957 Series)

*Come*

and see the world we live in:

A Program of 58 Moving Pictures  
(all but 9 in colour)  
in Thirteen Parts

Presented by  
The Regina Natural History Society  
and  
The Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History

3 Shows: 2:00, 3:30 and 8:30 p.m.  
Each Sunday, January 6th to March 31st  
in

THE SASKATCHEWAN MUSEUM  
AUDITORIUM

Admission Free Silver Collection  
Please retain this Program

*World Wandering Series.*

The success of our first programs prompted me to gather information on other natural history films which might be available free or by rental. Of great help to me was Dr. Roy Young, Director of Conservation for the Department of Natural Resources. His good offices enabled us to use the Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History Auditorium each Sunday afternoon and evening during January, February and March of 1956, at no charge. I then proceeded to order films and filmstrips timed to reach Regina during the week preceding the advertised program date. We had good publicity for the series which I named "World Wandering — the Easy Way." Programs were printed with funding from the Museum; in return for their generosity we gave them prominent billing on the programs.

Also of great assistance during my learning process was the late Fred Johnson, of the Regina Public Library staff.

In due course, Show No. One opened in the Museum at 3:30 P.M., Sunday, 8 January 1956 but we were not prepared for the crowd. Every one of the 425 seats was taken and we had to turn away quite a number. As each show met with the same response, it wasn't long before we had to schedule two showings each afternoon. As the galleries were open, many hundreds of visitors saw the displays which was gratifying to the Museum staff and Department of Natural Resources officials.

We followed the same procedure for 1957, entitling the series, "More World Wandering — the Easy Way," and adding an evening showing. For the 1958 series, "Still World Wandering — the Easy Way," I added four more shows during April.

During the three years we showed free films, I can remember only a single instance when the scheduled film failed to arrive on time; the Embassy of the USSR had placed the wrong film in the shipping container.

The Executive of the Regina Natural History Society enthusiastically supported all my endeavors to provide natural history films for Reginans. Unfortunately, the Society's records for those years have disappeared but we did end the venture with a substantial bank balance, and increased membership.

Society members were towers of strength during those years. Gordon W. Stewart performed yeoman service as projectionist; I cannot remember that he ever missed a show although he may have done so! Bruce Knox, Herb Stevenson, Ernie Paynter, Fred Robinson, Bob Mackenzie, Elmer Fox, and no doubt others, handled the crowds as ushers and did other tasks as needed.

*Frank Brazier*

## YOUTH PROGRAMS

Activities for young people of all ages have been and continue to be an important part of our Society's work. The first program recorded was in 1934, when schools and other youth groups were contacted and invited to tour the Museum.

Two characteristics are evident over the years, the first being the ebb and flow of youth activities. There would be a spurt of activity with impressive results, followed by a lull, a discussion of ways and means of interesting youth, then another leader would appear bringing a revival of interest. The second characteristic is the frequent involvement of staff from the Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History in these activities. It is not always clear which hat leaders wore, the Museum's or the Society's. Most likely it was one hat on top of the other!

Early activities included the use of slides and portable display cases, nature magazines, quizzes and sketching of Museum exhibits. Some of the people involved in these early programs were Fred Bard, Dan McGowan, and John Hunt.

I was hired by the Museum in 1955 as a summer assistant and later became permanently employed as an Extension Officer. At the urging of Robert Nero, then Assistant Director, I became involved in the RNHS. For the most part, the work I did for the Society was considered valid Museum work. It was a matter of symbiosis, to borrow a term from biology, both organizations benefiting from the arrangement.

Another staff member, Richard Fyfe, combined his interest in falconry and young people by having them demonstrate their skills at flying live falcons in the auditorium as part of some RNHS programs.

Marsh field trips were a perennial favorite, the marsh being an area along the creek east of Wascana Lake and including part of the lake. We had several favorite spots, one of which was near the Experimental Farm on the south shore of the Regina Waterfowl Park (north of where the University of Regina is today). I still remember a show put on by a Western Grebe and seen by an excited group of school children. The bird would swim away from the wharf, dive and reappear, time and time again, at the end of the wharf where we were standing.

Marsh field trips were never boring! There were trips taken early in the morning to observe blackbird behavior in the cattails beside the marsh. Robert Nero, who studied blackbird behavior, said that early morning was when all the marriages and divorces took place among the blackbirds and the Junior Naturalists were keen to check that out.

A newspaper clipping in the Archives reminded me of a very popular children's program we had at the Museum in the early 60s.

It consisted of nature quizzes and drawings based on the Museum exhibits, with RNHS providing the prizes. As many as 300 children took part in this activity on a Saturday afternoon. I am quoted in the *Leader Post* as saying enthusiastically, "The children love it. The parents appreciate it and say so. We have yet to receive a criticism." I smile now at such optimism. I recall the fun of the program. I also recall the criticism, which went right to the top, the Director. The Assistant Director then told me that some adults who wanted to view the exhibits took exception to noisy children. In the end, the program had to be terminated because too many parents took advantage of the free "baby-sitting." Cars would drive up to the Museum at opening time, drop off a load of small children, and with luck would be back before the scheduled closing time of the Museum. I returned to the public school system shortly after marrying Adam Deutscher in 1962, but we shared an interest in nature and continued our involvement with the RNHS.



A STUDY OF NATURE: Girl Guide and Brownie leaders from around Regina gathered for an outdoor workshop, sponsored by the Natural History Society, Saturday. The group of 18 started the day by watching films on birdlife at the museum and then proceeded to Wascana Marsh and the Condie Nature

Refuge. Lorne Scott of the Natural History Society and Mrs. M. Ayotte of Radville examine a goose nest which contains three eggs. Mrs. A. E. Nelson of Regina looks through binoculars to sight birds in the air. The workshop was the first of many designed to interest youth leaders in wildlife.

Leader Post photo 21 April 1970.

In 1968 Lorne Scott, a Museum employee, became convenor of the Society's youth program. In 1970 he reported that 600 children were reached by the programs. Numbers of 200 and 300 were common throughout the years. Programs included the bluebird nest project, field trips to such places as the grouse dancing grounds, leadership training programs (60 Girl Guide leaders were shown slides), bird identification, and special events wiener roasts such as the one held with a group of girls from St. Chad's Outdoor Club to mark the closing of their school in 1970.



JUNIOR NATURALISTS overnight field trip, Valeport — July, 1977. Photo by Bob Kreba.

The young people themselves were also encouraged to participate in adult programs by giving slide talks. Young naturalists giving talks included Rick Sanderson, Reg Fox, Alan Wade, and years earlier in 1945, Billy Whitehead and John Hunt.

In January 1966, the Regina Public School Board expressed an interest in developing an Outdoor Education Program for school children. The motivation was there, in part, thanks to dedicated naturalists who had succeeded in giving youth and others an understanding and appreciation of our natural environment. Those working to develop the highly successful program included Jack MacKenzie, Clay Doty, Ruth Tempel and Glen Wotherspoon.

Society sponsored youth programs continued. Some of the leaders included Elmer Fox, Tom Harper, Jim Jowsey, Frank Switzer and Robyn Donison.

Recently, ideas for encouraging youth participation included a suggestion that special videos of interest to young people be developed. Remember when coloured slides were first used by such notable wild life photographers as Fred Bard, Fred Lahrman and Doug Gilroy? Lorne Scott's outstanding contribution of many hours devoted to youth programs was recognized with a conservation award by the SNHS.

It is always rewarding to help youth develop a genuine interest in nature. The effects of our efforts are felt long afterwards. Years after I left the Museum, I would run into people who would say, "I remember you, you were the snake lady!" The snake was Caesar Augustus, a six foot long bull snake which I used to appear with on The Joy Perkins TV Program. I have not been referred to as the snake lady for some years now. I do, however, still run into people who say they were part of the Junior Naturalists and tell me how much that meant to them. The value of that contact outlives the sensationalism of a live bull snake! It's the little things we do on a daily basis that make the lasting difference. We never know when what we do is going to touch others.

Youth programs ebbed again during the 80s. But the tide may be about to flow once more. For National Wildlife Week in April 1990, Society volunteers in co-operation with Regina area schools took 350 children on nature walks along the shores of Wascana Lake. This activity must be an all time favourite. In October the same year, a call once again went out for someone to develop a program for Junior Naturalists.

Joyce Deutscher (Dew)

## FIELD TRIPS

### THE EARLY YEARS TO 1960

The value of field trips as a means of achieving the Society's objectives has been recognized since the founding year, 1933. The first field trips were walks in and around the city on early Wednesday mornings and Saturday afternoons in the spring for the purpose of listing the arrival dates of birds. Fifty species were noted the first year. Leaders were members of the original Executive, such as Jack Taylor and Hugh Boyd. Some birders were just as keen then as now to discourage cats; in 1937 a Society member moved "that all cats be killed unless wearing bells." The motion was defeated.

In 1936 a new approach to field trips was initiated. Study groups were set up to provide more specialized work in the field. Six such groups were formed: insects, birds and photography, stars, mammals and fish, flowers and trees (botany), and geology. Each group leader was responsible for meetings, field trips and study sessions. Most groups enjoyed trips as time and weather permitted during the summer months. The fall and winter were to be devoted to examining specimens found and to compiling field notes. In fact, most groups tended to disband in the fall.

By 1939, only the bird, botany and insect groups remained active and the indoor meetings had been dropped. The bird group was the most popular, with 30 members led by Jack Taylor. During the War years summer field trips became more informal and were arranged if there was sufficient interest. Meeting places and leaders for these "Nature Hikes" were publicized along with a few specialized trips; birding with Jack Taylor, plant hikes with Lloyd Carmichael or George Ledingham. After Hidden Valley was acquired members enjoyed many visits to the site, as the Society Minutes in 1946 revealed: "Each week the Valley had new delights for the visitor, each week brought forth new sights."

In the 1950s attempts were made to revive the study group concept. However, success was limited mainly to the bird and plant groups. The bird group, led by Doug Gilroy in 1954, reported that 12 Canada Geese spent the winter on the Wascana; George Ledingham's plant group reported learning to use Budd's new book to key plants. Saturday bird tours with Margaret Belcher, Lucy Murray and Elizabeth Cruickshank proved popular and continued throughout migration season.

While an occasional extended field trip took place, for example to the Big Muddy for geology, the Qu'Appelle Valley or the Indian Head Forestry and Experimental Farms, it wasn't until the 1960s that the Society began to visit a significant number of relatively distant sites, some of them requiring overnight trips.

Emphasis seemed to be directed more toward films and slide shows during the 1950s. Who will ever forget Peter Huston's showing of his first, and unedited, 8mm field trip movies in the Museum theatre culminating when the lights went up to reveal an empty take up reel and a small mountain of film in a tangled heap on the floor?

### MIDDLE YEARS 1960 TO 1980

This period saw a marked increase in field trips, both in number and distance. In 1960 the Executive decided that trips should be given higher priority, and ways and means were explored to stimulate interest. A Field Trip Committee was formed with Frank Brazier as chairman and field trip plans and reports were often on the agenda of both Executive and regular Society meetings.

For 1961 the Committee outlined 12 outings starting in May and continuing to the end of August, a program still limited to the summer. Longer trips, such as those to Old Wives Lake for pelicans, the Big Muddy for geology, eagles and Prairie Falcons, and to Last Mountain Lake for cranes, alternated with local outings and included an overnight camp out at Hidden Valley and the first annual May



RNHS/SNHS field trip West Block, Cypress Hills at Conglomerate Cliffs — June, 1976. Photo by Bob Kreba.



Field trip to Weyburn Hospital grounds in 1986. Photo by Jon Triffo.



Field trip to Little Arm — 1983. Photo by Jessie Bailey.

Day Bird Count. Frank Switzer recalls a trip to the Big Muddy which included an examination of some impressions in a lignite coal seam. One lady, finding an unusual granular platter-shaped impression, was told it was a wonderful example of "bovis quadrupedis excretia." Delighted, she took her treasure home.

Some of these trips were organized jointly with other Societies such as Moose Jaw, Saskatoon, Indian Head and Yorkton and this practice has persisted ever since. This integration of the various Societies on field trips provided extra motivation and a chance to exchange valuable information. They could, however, create some awkward situations. Margaret Belcher recalls being asked to lead a joint field trip of the Regina, Moose Jaw and Saskatoon Societies. Unfortunately, the meeting place chosen was Chamberlain, not for any special natural history features, but simply as a conveniently central location for the three Societies! It took some preliminary scouting to find things of interest.

Getting turned around or lost can be distinctly awkward, as Bob Kreba once found while leading a joint Moose Jaw - Regina trip to Old Wives Lake. He took a wrong turn trying to find the route south out of Moose Jaw, creating mild chaos among the cavalcade of cars obediently following and in particular among the many Moose Jaw residents who had just joined him.

The cooperative approach with other local Societies and SNHS greatly extended the geographical scope of field trips. It seemed no place in the southern half of Saskatchewan was out of bounds. Groups headed for The Great Sand Hills, Wood Mountain, Val Marie, the Cypress Hills, Roche Percee, Moose Mountain and Cannington Manor in the south, to Good Spirit Lake, Waskesiu and Kelvington in the north. In 1972, the Whooping Crane Conservation Association chose Regina for its first meeting in Canada; the highlight was a field trip to the north end of Last Mountain Lake to see the Sandhill Crane migration with hopes of spotting a Whooping Crane.

It was also during this period that Tom White commenced his famous Pasquia Hills expeditions on the long weekend each May. White was encouraged to search the area for Cougar and later for Plains Grizzly after hearing legends of "big bear up in the Hills," of Cougar and of the hideouts of World War II draft dodgers. Eighteen members went on the first trip in 1964 to look for signs of both Cougar and Grizzly, as well as other natural history interests. Casts of probable Cougar tracks were made and 74 species of birds were identified.

A pattern for the trips emerged, with some members exploring near a base camp while the others, a "select, commando type group" as reported in the 1972 Society Minutes, would spend three days in the interior of

the Hills. These annual trips often pushed for the heart of the Hills from various directions; up the Rice River and Bainbridge Canyons on the north, from the Fir River and Greenbush Trail on the south, the Man River on the west, and the Chemong and Pasquia Rivers on the east. No one who accompanied White on those hard driving treks will ever forget them; backpacking by map and compass through muskeg and black spruce, along game trails and poplar ridges through a wilderness forest, wild and beautiful. These trips reflected White's belief in the value of wilderness and prompted him to urge that the core of the Hills be preserved for all time and for all people. The trips continued throughout the 70s with Keith Barr as leader in the later years.



*Pasquia Hills Field Trip — August, 1973. Photo by Jack MacKenzie.*



*Pasquia Hills Field Trip — date unknown. Photo by Jack MacKenzie.*

The Pasquia Hills expeditions always provided good stories, such as the time members John Schaller and Don Walker left their camp in the interior of the Hills one evening for a "short" after supper stroll. They eventually made their way back to the road after spending a long night under a spruce tree. On another occasion, Keith Barr was awakened one morning in his station wagon at a base camp by a bear looking in his window.

Thus by 1972 an extensive program of field trips had been organized from May until September. This involved afternoon trips locally, full day trips and overnight camp outs, and planning was underway to push the field trip season to include winter. The next year it was decided to try something new; one or two trips combined winter ecology with travel on snowshoes or cross country skis, together with a meal cooked outdoors. Tom Gentles and Glen Wotherspoon conducted a workshop at the Museum a week before the trip to orient members to snowshoe bindings, clothing and outdoor cooking. Snowshoes were borrowed from the Regina Board of Education and 50 people turned out on a cold Saturday for the trip to Flying Creek. This innovation was repeated the following winter, and in 1975 Val Harrison was named Coordinator of Winter Field Trips. One event was planned per month, January through April.

Over the next several years these winter trips were continued using skis or snowshoes along the creeks in the Regina area. However, it was discouraging that many trips had to be cancelled due to extreme cold or wind, or lack of snow. In 1977 a guideline suggested field trips would be cancelled if the "wind chill factor fell below minus 30 degrees Celsius." Nevertheless, by the end of the 70s, winter field trips had become established as an integral part of the overall program.

A specialized intensive form of summer field trip was conducted on occasion by George Ledingham at the University of Regina Field Station in the Cypress Hills. These were organized by Jim and Shirley Jowsey and Gwen Jones and would last a week, with the main purpose being to identify plant species. One such project resulted in the identification of 345 vascular plant species, as well as incidental sightings of Moose, White-tailed and Mule Deer, and Beaver.

Such an ambitious all season program was not without its problems, and was difficult to sustain. From time to time the Field Trip Committee expressed disappointment in the response from the members, although the local Saturday or Sunday trips were generally well attended. In particular, it was hard to justify the time and expense involved in arranging for distant trips if participation was minimal. At times it was difficult to recruit leaders, and there had been a dramatic increase in gasoline prices. In order to help promote the programs, a list of trips began to appear in the newsletters as well as in the *Leader Post*. However,

by the late 1970s the field trip programs had to be cut back to one trip per month plus impromptu local trips to points of interest.

## THE RECENT YEARS 1980 TO PRESENT

In the last decade the Society has established a pattern of one field trip every second weekend throughout the year. The basic philosophy involves exposing people to the natural world, not only for enjoyment and sociability, but as part of a growing movement of ecological awareness. The trips have not been limited to members. Others are welcomed with the hope that all will become more aware of, and concerned about the environment and ecology. Families are a target, although there is still a shortage of young people. The Society has acquired sufficient capable leaders to operate the program year round under Bob Kreba's direction, although there has been a lack of specialists in botany since the departure of Jim and Shirley Jowsey who retired to their farm near Saltcoats.

With regard to sites, a balance has been struck between the shorter and longer trips, with a tendency to have many more trips outside the city as access has improved. For example, the popular and productive Condie - Valeport - Route 99 outing is now considered a 'local trip' and is routinely visited in half a day. Trips to Little Arm and Regina Beach are excellent for migrating birds. Monica Slough, the Kronau Flats and Buck Lake were favourite local sites during the 80s for geese, swans, waterfowl and shorebirds, but have been badly affected in recent years by drought. As these sites declined, Condie and the Cement Plant slough became more important, both for birds and birders. The north end of Last Mountain Lake is still a wonderful staging area for waterfowl and cranes, and inspires an annual fall event. The Wascana Waterfowl Park provides an exceptional local resource, just as it has since the inception of the Society. The Qu'Appelle Valley, the Souris Valley near Weyburn and the Cypress Hills serve as sites for occasional longer trips.

The ski/ecology approach to winter field trips was expanded with outings to Nicolle Flats, Moose Mountain Provincial Park, the Big Muddy and Duck Mountain Provincial Park, involving some overnight trips and the use of rented vans. Automobile trips to creeks and valleys near Regina have become regular and popular opportunities to see winter birds and mammals, or the lack of them!

Not surprisingly, a significant number of vehicles have inadvertently been driven into ditches over the years by overly keen naturalists looking for, or at, birds and animals. More than one nature lover has sat on prickly pear cactus, with predictable results. Even brand new species have been discovered, such as the Lark Buntings which one lady insisted on calling "white winged blackbirds."



Winter field trip, Big Muddy — 8 February, 1986. Photo by Andy Ferniuk.



Winter field trip to Duck Mountain Provincial Park — February, 1987.

Some trips and projects of a specific nature were started during the 80s, and have become a regular part of the field trip program.

### ASTRONOMY TRIPS

The increased availability of telescopes, as well as binoculars, has enhanced members' enjoyment of the night sky.

Besides stars, nebulae, planets, and comets, evening outings led by Carol Bjorklund and Bob Kreba to view meteor showers have become popular. The highlights of the 1985-86 field trip year, as identified in the Annual Report, included the viewing of Halley's Comet.

### OWLING TRIPS

Owling in the Regina area was begun by Bob Luterbach and these trips in late winter have become an annual event. Most outings are conducted locally, although on one occasion a trip was made to the Prince Albert area where five species of owls were found. Tape recorders are sometimes used to attract owls such as the Northern Saw-whet Owl, Eastern Screech-Owl, Great Horned Owl and Long-eared Owl. One

unusual sighting was of the sky dance of the Short-eared Owl. These trips require caution so as to minimize disturbance to the small and scattered owl populations. Once, Bob Kreba was attempting to attract a Saw-whet Owl with his tape recorder at Sherwood Forest. Not only was he successful, but the tiny owl actually flew in to strike him on the head.



### MUSHROOM TRIPS

Organized by Bob Kreba, most mushroom trips have taken place near Regina. The recent dry years have reduced their success. Most notable was a trip to Duck Mountain where 20 members found over 100 species of mushrooms on a weekend in August.

### GROUSE DANCE TRIPS

Despite the 6:00 A.M. start, these excursions each spring are always well attended. Up to 35 people have accompanied Keith Barr to watch the dance of the Sharp-tailed Grouse at their lek near Gibbs.

### WINTER FEEDERS

Feeders have been maintained in recent years in several locations. At Sherwood Forest and White Butte, bird watching skiers are encouraged to visit the sites. These often include a follow-up tour of Cottonwood and Wascana Creeks to Lumsden, or Tor Hill and Boggy Creek. Another feeder attracts birds and birders to the Regina Cemetery.

### BIRD ALERT LINE

A phone-in service, the Regina Bird Alert, has been established as a supplement to the field trip programs. Birders are kept up to date on interesting or unusual sightings in the Regina area, news of the next scheduled field trip, upcoming meetings and other special events. This



information source is operated year round with sponsorship from Sask Tel. Consult the RNHS *Newsletter* for the telephone number.

As the RNHS moves toward its seventh decade, it can look back with pride to the long tradition of quality field trips that has always characterized its service to its members. It has been an evolutionary process with gradual modifications arising out of past experiences, new insights and conditions.

Jack MacKenzie

## SOCIAL EVENTS

As our first historian, Marguerite Robinson, has recorded in her book, *The First Twenty-five Years of the Regina Natural History Society*, "In the midst of drought, depression and discouragement this group [of men and women interested in the various phases of nature] optimistically banded together to share mutual knowledge and help each other." It was certainly not primarily a social club yet it filled a need at a time when, as Robinson says, "expensive amusements waned for lack of money and hobbies acquired new values."

Since the 30s social contacts made at general meetings became more meaningful through outdoor programming and social occasions. Annual picnics were held in early summer and wiener roasts brought the Society's fall activities to a pleasant conclusion.

In September 1937 the first annual wiener roast was held at King's Park. This became a popular outing attended by as many as 100 people and characterized by a "well-organized program and feast" as one account says. Members provided the entertainment of accordion music, skits and community singing "which in exuberance would have rivalled that of nightingales, canaries and [song] sparrows all put together," according to Society Minutes. For the 1939 wiener roast, the cost for wieners, buns, doughnuts, coffee, cream, sugar and mustard totalled \$8.17, with wieners at 20 cents a dozen. The Committee was somewhat embarrassed when 70 people turned out and they had only planned for 60.

In 1939 Ruth Houston, the first Social Convener, organized a basket picnic which was held at Hungry Hollow (now Sherwood Forest) and featured a nature hunt. In 1944, at the first gathering held in the recently acquired Hidden Valley, a group led by J.H.Taylor and Arnold Metcalfe identified 30 bird species. L.T.Carmichael and Mrs. Price guided a group which identified 100 flower species. Mrs. C.H.Koester identified trees, and W.J.Orchard, archeological specimens.



Photograph date unknown of women gathered for a picnic social. Location may be Sherwood Park or may be Hidden Valley.

Inclement fall weather seems to have encouraged the introduction of an indoor picnic, the first of which was held at the James Quigley home in January 1943. It featured a table centre of a mirrored lake surrounded by miniature ferns, birds and animals. This event was soon replaced by an Annual Meeting Banquet held in a local hotel or church basement. These were gala affairs, for which printed menus and programs remain in the archives. One evening was made memorable by a singsong of original lyrics composed by and about members and sung to familiar tunes. The last of these was held in 1949.

The annual June picnics were discontinued in 1955 because of so many other summer outings (including the SNHS Meet) and perhaps because many of them were spoiled by mosquitoes.

Occasionally related societies were invited to share social events, for example, the Rock & Gem Society, the Astronomical Society and the Camera Club. In June 1983 a 50th anniversary barbecue was held at Condie Nature Refuge.

Special social events have been held throughout the years for guest speakers or when the Annual Meeting of the SNHS was held in Regina. A tea honoring Ernest Thompson Seton and his wife, Julia Seton, was well reported in the local press in September 1939. Prominent community members in attendance included Honorary President W.F.Kerr.

In December 1947 the RNHS was invited to hold its regular meeting in the Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History, then located in the Normal School. A social hour following the meeting gave members a chance to see new additions and improvements to the Museum.

With the completion of the new Museum building in 1955, the Society moved its meeting place from the Regina College Science Theatre to the new auditorium. As food services were unavailable, a request was made to establish a small kitchenette in the lounge area. With a donation of \$300 from the RNHS this became a reality in 1960. A buffet supper for the Annual Meeting was held until the kitchen was turned over to a caterer in 1963. Later, when the kitchen was removed, the Society continued providing refreshments after meetings with a coffee urn in the Museum foyer. A Dessert Social prior to the December meeting has become a tradition, as well as a Strawberry Social in May. Jessie Bailey, Social Convener for many years, introduced and has continued to organize these popular events.

*Mary Sykes*

## PROJECTS

### WASCANA WATERFOWL PARK

Saskatchewan's new capital of Regina, when the province was created in 1905, was situated on a muddy creek which broadened into a sizeable marsh in wet years and was named by the Indians, Ooskunna Cahstakee - Great Heap of Bones, descriptive of the huge pile of bleaching buffalo bones on its banks. The settlers, desiring a more respectable name than Pile O'Bones Creek, adapted part of the Indian name to Wascana. Plans for an impressive new Legislative Building in 1907, which included damming Wascana Creek, cleaning out and deepening the reedy slough and creating a lake frontage to the north of it, became a reality in 1911.

An Order-in-Council of the provincial government on 4 September 1913 established the Wascana Game Preserve comprising about 360 acres and 8.5 miles of shoreline. It supported aquatic plant life, nesting and migrant birds and animals typical of a prairie marsh. A Power House was erected in 1914 on the north bank of the Wascana about a mile east of the Legislative Building. Warmed water from its cooling process was returned to the creek at this point creating a marshy area that remained ice-free in winter. It attracted many birds, especially ducks, some remaining all year. The enhancement and preservation of this area was of particular interest to Fred Bradshaw, Provincial Museum Director and a founding member of the Regina Natural History Society in 1933. The Society has remained faithful to his vision.

A Game Warden had been in charge of the area from 1913 to 1919, and in 1935 the RNHS successfully petitioned the provincial government to recreate that position. Over the next 20 years a winter feeding program was carried on with feed from the City Farm and donations from seed companies and local farmers helping to save many birds.

In 1953 a pair of captive Canada Geese were donated to Fred Bard, Museum Director, by Ralph Stueck from his Abernethy farm sanctuary. Queenie and Hiawatha and their progeny, joined by other captive birds, began a flock of year-round resident geese. Once common in southern Saskatchewan, the Canada Goose had been eliminated as a nesting species through hunting pressure and drought. Thanks to the persistent efforts of Bard and his dedicated assistants the population thrived in the Wascana Waterfowl Park. In 1961 goslings were captured and released at Valeport and Montmartre marshes. Every year since, hundreds have been rounded up and released throughout Saskatchewan and as far away as British

Columbia, Quebec, New Mexico and Florida. The Wascana Waterfowl Park flock has become a natural part of Regina's landscape.

In 1955 Bard outlined his plans to the RNHS for a bird park on the Wascana Marsh as a place for feeding, caring for injured birds, and providing protection from stray dogs and haphazard destruction, but especially as a place for people to view the birds in a natural habitat. A Bird Study Station would be included. In 1957 a Regina Waterfowl Park Committee was formed with help from, among others, the RNHS, SNHS, the Fish and Game League of Regina, the Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History, the Department of Natural Resources, the City of Regina, Regina schools, and Regina College. Fred Bard was honored by the RNHS in 1958 for his pioneer work in setting up the sanctuary and establishing the Canada Goose flock in the city.

The RNHS supported the Waterfowl Park Committee with grants as well as assistance in building up a nesting island for terns and floating wooden nest platforms for geese. A brief was presented by George Ledingham to the Provincial Department of Public Works regarding improvement and beautification of the banks of the Wascana. Protests were made to the city to increase public awareness of the negative effects of the dumping of garbage in the park area. In 1961 the RNHS, acting on a request from Doug Wade, assisted the Committee in bringing Al Hochbaum of the Delta Waterfowl Research Station, Delta, Manitoba, to speak to the Society and write a report on ways of managing and protecting the marsh area.

The provincial government established the Wascana Centre Planning Committee in 1961 to make plans and recommendations for future uses of the whole tract of land surrounding the Legislative Buildings and extending east along the marsh and creek. Part of this was to become the site of a new university. Herbert Moulding, Chairman of the Waterfowl Park Committee, marshalled the resources of the group to prepare a comprehensive brief to present to this planning committee.

By 1963 the Wascana Centre Authority (WCA) had been given full control of the area. Its Executive Director, A.K. Gilmore, recognized the value of the Waterfowl Park but felt it might be difficult to retain. Two years later the Hochbaum Report suggested that the Waterfowl Park be developed as a Bird Sanctuary, preferably under the aegis of the University of Regina. However, the University declined to participate. The Waterfowl Park Committee appointed H. Moulding, A.B. Van Cleave, E.L. Paynter, Frank Brazier and Fred Bard (all RNHS members) to outline a program for the park and to work with the WCA. A suggestion by Ralph Stueck that a bird viewing tower was needed in the park gained approval of the WCA and eventually two open-deck towers were built. Since 1959 Regina and district schools and the general public have used the park for tours, often conducted in cooperation with the

Museum, and individuals have used it as a study area.

In a report to the RNHS in 1968 Fred Bard said, "Twelve nesting species of birds have been lost to the park in the past twelve years. People need to be educated to respect wildlife and to preserve the sanctuary. It is being threatened by building in the park area. More islands and trees are needed." For several years concerns were expressed to the city by members of the Society regarding the placement of a proposed bridge across the Wascana. A new bridge and weir on a rerouted Broad Street eventually solved this problem and created a larger pond area suitable for migrating and nesting birds.

In June 1971 new Waterfowl Display Ponds were officially opened. Reporting this event Margaret Belcher wrote, "The park was described as an unique oasis in a metropolitan area, and indeed visitors who stood within the fenced area of the display ponds looking across the marsh to the city could hear the sounds of a living marsh around them as frogs croaked and calling waterbirds flew over." Films taken at the Waterfowl Park by Bard and Fred Lahrman gained Canada-wide recognition.

In the 1970s hunting of geese in the Regina area became a concern of the RNHS. After numerous petitions and letters written to the Department of Natural Resources and the WCA by the President, Lloyd Hipperson, Jim Jowsey and Park Naturalist Lorne Scott, hunting was banned in a zone around the city. The closing of the Power House brought with it the problem of providing open water for the resident goose population. In 1976 Jowsey reported to the Society that little was



Feeding time at Wascana Waterfowl Park. Photo by Kay Ferguson

being done to protect the large goose population from harassment by dogs and a lack of water in the winter. The Society pressed for arrangements to maintain the goose flock properly at a manageable number. Scott reported in November 1976 that no feeding program had been started in an effort to encourage the geese to fly south, but 3000 to 5000 geese remained. By 1978 the water was being allowed to freeze and all but 1000 geese were migrating. During recent years the geese remain in large numbers in the fall, even past freeze-up. Most eventually leave, while the hardy few that choose to stay are fed when it becomes necessary. A new overwintering facility for the captive Waterfowl Park birds and injured birds was opened in 1980, with RNHS President Val Harrison in attendance.

Opposition to a mountain being built in the park and lack of a management program were concerns of the Society expressed by President Paule Hjertaas in 1982. Bob Luterbach headed a committee in 1985 to press the WCA to increase habitat for wildlife within the park, not to overcultivate and to maintain good forestry practice. In 1988 President Kathleen Donauer headed a delegation of Bob Kreba, Frank Switzer and Jim Elliott to the Wascana Centre Authority to outline members' concerns regarding too much building in the park, the need to preserve marsh habitat, overpruning of trees, erosion of banks and water pollution. They were included in discussions on reducing the impact of people and waterfowl on the park, on the problem of removing *Lythrum* (purple loosestrife), on providing interpretive areas for public education and on the need for protection of nesting waterfowl.

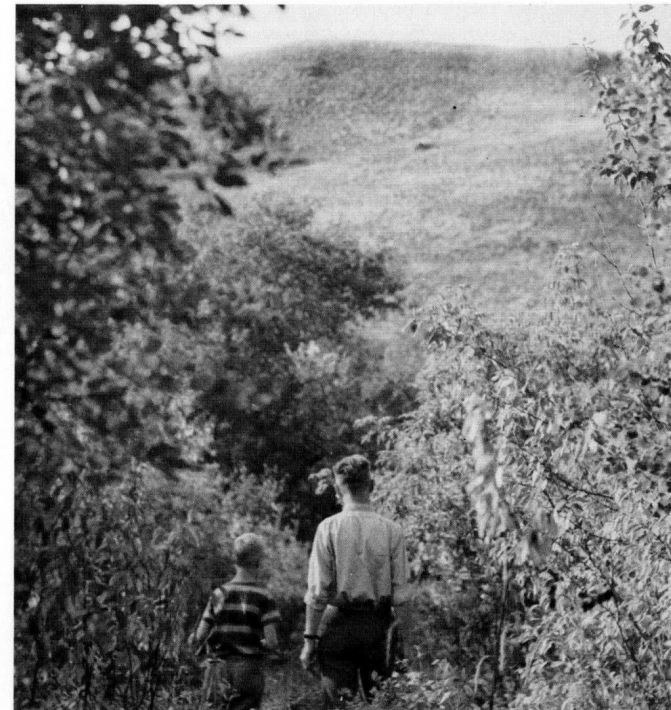
Frank Switzer was appointed as RNHS representative to the WCA in 1989. The same year, during an exceptionally dry summer, an illegal dam was constructed on Wascana Creek by a nearby golf club, damaging fragile wetland areas. Legal action was taken and the golf club reconstructed the area as well as possible under the supervision of the WCA with representatives of the RNHS and Ducks Unlimited.

WCA liaison, Jim Elliott, requested better maintenance during 1989 of Tern and Goose Islands in the marsh, and of the shoreline, that willows be cut near the Centre of the Arts to assist bird-watchers and that bicycle paths be kept well back to avoid disturbing the birds. Lucy Eley, representative to City Council, raised objections to the proposed Imax Theatre in the Saskatchewan Science Centre, formerly the Power Plant. Problems with the height of the building, its large windows posing dangers to birds, and the intrusion on park land by an expanded parking lot were discussed with the builders. Compromises were reached.

In November 1990 Elliott reported that a new Five Year Plan was being prepared for the Wascana Centre and Waterfowl Park. His advice from an ecological point of view would be seriously considered. Public

input was requested regarding the future use of 12 acres which would no longer be needed for a tree nursery.

Mary Sykes



Typical Hidden valley terrain — sometime during early 1940's.

## HIDDEN VALLEY

The name "Hidden Valley" evokes a sense of mystery and discovery. Yet the very reason for its existence is to save it from discovery so that it may simply remain an untouched part of a still young land.

This was the hope of R.C.(Bob) Mackenzie in 1945 when he first described to the Regina Natural History Society this beautiful valley

on the south side of the Qu'Appelle River about 26 miles northwest of Regina near the town of Craven. In his words, " There is a long narrow valley, tributary to the main valley of the Qu'Appelle River, and five deep, forest filled connecting coulees. It is a surprising place of steep, bare hills and deep, narrow ravines.....over grown with thick woods and tangled underbrush. In this wild place hills and coulees remain much as they have always been. Steep, stony hills have guarded the valleys well and the land unsuited for the plow has remained undisturbed."

Mackenzie also described the many species of plants, animals and birds that could be found in the valley and persuaded the members to lease the 320 acres owned by the CPR (North half of Section 21, Township 20, R.20 W.2) at \$1.00 per annum to be retained as a wildlife sanctuary. This arrangement was ended when the Society decided to purchase the valley in October 1954 for \$1.00 per acre with donations from members. One hundred dollars was donated from proceeds of a film show by Doug Gilroy. Payment was completed in March 1955.



Hidden Valley photo of Jake Rempel, Bob Mackenzie, Richard Rempel and Lloyd Carmichael.

Bob Mackenzie was put in charge of any work that needed to be done in the valley and he continued in that position for the next 23 years. The work involved the posting of signs restricting the use of the property, building of minimum facilities for a small picnic site near the road and the marking of nature trails. Helpers included L.T.Carmichael, who set up a botany trail in 1945 which was updated by George Ledingham in 1956. A geology trail was laid out by R.Cheesman in 1956. It has been a continuing struggle to keep up the trails and replace their labels and other signs because of heavy winter snows and careless visitors who have vandalized the area repeatedly.

In the early years two or three meetings were held in the valley each year, one as a cleanup in the spring, a summer field trip and in the fall a hike and a picnic. Recently the cleanup has been left to the Committee in charge of the valley and only the picnic field trip has become an annual event.

One trip was described by the first historian, Marguerite Robinson, in an article in the Regina *Leader Post* in 1955. After picking their way slowly up a steep overgrown trail sometimes hacked away by the leader, Bruce Knox, the group finally reached a summit where the view was magnificent. Robinson wrote, " The floor of the valley and all the minor coulees blazed with orange and red chokecherry, and yellow poplars and Manitoba maples stood out against a background of dark green and pale greyish greens. The hillside was dotted with reddish gooseberry bushes and solid lines of purple brush with here and there bright scarlet leaves waving gaily as all nature tried her new fall colors.... A few wild blue asters were still blooming and rosy purple blazing star but most flowers like the goldenrod were already seeds for next year. The hillside held interesting stones covered with brilliant multicolored lichens. The sharp pointed cacti plants penetrated rubber soled shoes and did not provide a good spot for a tumble....Magpies, Cedar Waxwings and a convention of crows discussing winter travel protested our use of their sanctuary while three deer suddenly remembered engagements elsewhere."

Although the history of the valley under RNHS ownership seems mostly one of benign neglect, there have been a number of serious attempts to control vandalism and to set up a policy for use of the property. For several years in the 1960s a motorcycle club was allowed to use part of the sanctuary for a hill climb competition. Scout and Guide groups and nomadic Metis used it as a summer campground. Nearby farmers have, with or without permission, taken hay and have even cultivated parts of the area. The sanctuary was once used for beehives, perhaps as a way to counteract vandalism! A deer feeding program was instituted one year without permission from

the Society, but later permission was given with assurances a cleanup would be made in the spring. At various times there have been hog farms, poultry farms and feed lots in the area but in May 1987 the adjacent property was rezoned to Country Urban. Nearby residents now seem to appreciate the value of the sanctuary as a nature refuge and are cooperating in its preservation.

In 1956 trees were planted, posts put in to outline the boundaries and a fireplace and picnic tables built with help from a group of young men from the Wildlife Conservation League. The next year 12 oak trees were planted by Pearl Guest and her brother John. Later an access road was built and places for parking and picnicking laid out. In 1959 aerial photos were taken by the Department of Natural Resources. The following year poles were put up across the access trails to the valley because of vandalism. Signs and markers were replaced several times in the next few years. Tom White took over care of the property in 1968 and enlisted the help of Ken Dickson, a nearby farmer. Cattle grazing could not be allowed because the property was not being taxed by the municipality, but some farmers were allowed to cut hay for their own use, with a donation to the Society sometimes being given.

In 1965 a committee was set up to "present definite proposals for the development of Hidden Valley." Two of the original members of the committee were Jack Alex and Joyce Deutscher. Jack Alex made a list of the botanical species and Harvey Beck, the mammals. More signs were put up and trails marked. The committee concluded that perhaps more use of the sanctuary could be made by youth groups and schools but that not too much development should be done. Volunteers were needed to clear trails and replace signs each year.

In an interview with the *Leader Post* in 1971, Society President Gary Seib stated that the RNHS was one of the few natural history societies in Canada to own such a piece of land which they were interested in keeping as a natural area, using it only for study trips and an annual picnic.

Jim and Shirley Jowsey and other interested members brought in a petition recommending that funds be secured and plans made for the protection and improvement of this valuable asset. A committee was set up and signs prohibiting all-terrain vehicles were requested by Paul Mason. A map of the area was printed in the *Newsletter* to assist members in finding it. (See Appendix II, Page 75.)

Costs of about \$3500 for a survey and fencing investigated by Ken Dickson in 1973 were considered to be prohibitive. In 1978 Frank Switzer and Ken Dickson purchased materials and organized several fencing bees. A quarter mile of fence was put up on the east side to discourage vehicles and cattle grazing, materials being paid for with

the proceeds of a paper recycling project looked after by Wayne Gemmel. A bird carving by Frank Hazzard was donated for a raffle to help pay for the surveying. No vehicles were to be allowed in the area in an effort to keep it as natural as possible.

In May 1980, at the urging of George Ledingham, an appendix was added to the RNHS Constitution regarding the use of Hidden Valley. A proviso states that the Directors could make amendments to the regulations which were consistent with the spirit and intent of the policy, which called for very little use or management. Only RNHS members may use the sanctuary with a limited number of invited guests. No firearms are allowed and no vehicles except in the designated parking area. No fires may be built; all cooking is to be on portable cookers using fuel brought in by the owner.

By 1986 the existing fence had deteriorated and additional sections were needed. A new management plan was put forward by President Kathleen Donauer. A committee under Colin Trimmer with volunteers Vivian Sedgewick, Bob Ewart, Andy Ferniuk, Frank Switzer, Lucille Bradatsch, Bob Berthiaume, Keith Barr, Lauren Mang, Phyllis Ilsley and others decided to do the job. A grant of \$4000 was received from the Saskatchewan Natural History Society and the work proceeded with volunteer labour. Colin Trimmer contacted all the neighboring farmers and received their cooperation. The plateau area which had been cultivated without permission was to be reseeded to native grasses under the direction of Wayne Hannah of the University of Regina. The working party consisted of George Ledingham, Frank Switzer, K. Don, Chris Adam, Dale Hjertaas, David Henry, Dianne Secoy and Mary Sawchyn.

By September 1987 the fencing had been completed on the south and east sides. Special thanks were given to Colin Trimmer, Dean Richert, Bob Ross and Bill Nickle. Seeding of the cultivated area was done in 1988 but drought has threatened it. Dean Richert became head of the management committee and arranged for an excellent tour and hike over marked trails for the picnic in September 1990.

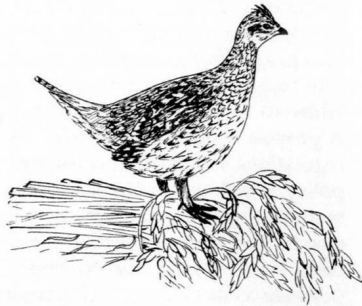
Mary Sykes

## PROVINCIAL EMBLEMS

The first discussions in the Regina Natural History Society regarding the choice of suitable flower and bird emblems for Saskatchewan occurred in 1935. In the 1930s the prevailing drought conditions led one cynic to comment that the grasshopper and dandelion might be



Western Red Lily.



Sharp-tailed Grouse.

the most suitable. Undeterred, the Society petitioned the government in 1941 to adopt the Western Red Lily (*Lilium philadelphicum*), popularly known as the Prairie Lily, as a flower emblem and the Mallard as a bird emblem. The following year the Western Red Lily became the official flower emblem but a bird was not chosen.



White Birch.

All sketches by Fred Lahrman

By 1944 various groups were able to agree that the Sharp-tailed Grouse, popularly known as the Prairie Chicken, would make a suitable bird emblem and this legislation was passed in 1945. The same year the RNHS sent out a questionnaire and 1000 pictures of the Western Red Lily to Saskatchewan schools stressing the need for its protection. By 1955 the Society was petitioning the government for legislation against the picking of this lily. In 1973 Fenton Vance was still petitioning for protection and proper designation of the Western Red Lily. Chiefly through persistent personal effort Vance was able to have legislation passed in 1981, using the proper nomenclature and providing for a \$50 fine for picking the flowers of the Western Red Lily.

In 1960 Marguerite Robinson had stated that Saskatchewan was the only province with both a flower and bird emblem due in no small part to the efforts of the RNHS. In 1988 Jim Elliott and Gillian Richardson moved that the Society petition the Government of Saskatchewan to accept the Trembling Aspen as the provincial tree emblem but the final choice was the White Birch.

Mary Sykes

## CONSERVATION PROJECTS IN REGINA AND AREA

Although the Wascana Waterfowl Park has always been the main area of concern of the Regina Natural History Society in its home city, many other conservation problems have been addressed as well.

The Society's first request to the city was made in 1935 when it suggested that the city gardeners label some of the trees in the city parks. In return, J.M. Craig of the City Parks Department enlisted the help of the Society in urging more tree planting by the citizens. In 1950 Marjorie Dunlop, Director of the Regina Public Library, asked the Society to prepare a 30 day display for the library. Since then, many educational displays have been mounted in various public areas in the city.

In 1960 Robert Nero represented the Society as he joined with others from the Regina Historical Society, the Regina Council of Women and the Manager of Simpson's Parkade to protest the removal of Stanley Park at the Union Station to make room for a parking lot. This cause was lost except for the preservation of a few trees and grass along the street. The same year Pearl Guest suggested that the

Society consult with the city regarding the establishment of a designated green belt around Regina, beginning a process that resulted in a bylaw to that effect.

Also in 1960 Fred Bard spoke to a meeting about an area just north of the city known as Condie Dam. The land and reservoir were for sale by the CNR and it was his hope that it would become a sanctuary and a park. By 1968 the Condie Dam and Reservoir had been purchased and in Fred Bard's words, "It was being developed as a living museum preserving wherever possible the natural environment to be studied by controlled groups of visitors." Fred Bard, Art Hartwell and Carl Burton of the Provincial Department of Natural Resources directed development and RNHS members helped to put up signs, make nature walks and write display leaflets. The centre was named the Fred Bard Nature Centre in honor of its chief advocate and founder at the opening in August 1970. It continues as a nature refuge and recreational area, and a popular outdoor education site for school groups.

In 1961 the first annotated list of birds of the Regina area was compiled by RNHS member Margaret Belcher and published as *Birds of Regina* by the SNHS.

In 1962 the vacant city block in the downtown area known as Broad Street Park was being suggested for development. A committee of Tom White, Allan Cherry, Beth Smith and J.Moss contacted City Council and the provincial government to recommend that it be retained as a green space or that a similarly sized plot in the same area be developed as a park. By 1964 it was decided that a smaller park would be developed near Embury House. This still exists in the block where there is now a senior citizens' centre and highrise.

The loss of a park area around the old City Hall and the removal of evergreen trees to widen Albert Street were protested by Lloyd Hipperson in 1969. Another protest against the proposed location of a new City Hall on Lorne Street was successful in protecting Victoria Park. Evelyn Weisbrot persuaded park authorities to postpone the mowing of Wascana Parkway until after the bird nesting season.

In 1970 Pollution Probe, sponsored by the University of Regina, held a panel on pollution in the Wascana Creek area. Gary Seib represented the RNHS in the organization of a cleanup day, Festival Days and briefs to the provincial government. Continuing in the 1970s, the Society had input into decisions regarding treeplanting and landscaping of schoolgrounds and the use of Tanglefoot rather than spraying for cankerworms. The RNHS made its objections known concerning the location for a new bridge across the Wascana, the plan to remove trees along Victoria Avenue, and proposed development in King's Park. A successful newspaper recycling program begun in 1976 under the direction of Wayne Gemmel was concluded in 1985 when the demand

for paper declined. Ken Dickson represented the Society at a Regina Land Use Public Workshop.

In 1984 the provincial government provided a grant to make a map of natural areas in and around Regina. Chris Adam took on the project and identified 29 natural areas. As a result, Adam suggested that there be a birder's guide to the Regina area. The project was completed by Chris Adam, Tom Riffel, Bob Luterbach and Bob Kreba and published by the Saskatchewan Natural History Society. *A Birdfinding Guide to the Regina Area* (SNHS, 1985) was enthusiastically welcomed by members.

Society President Kathleen Donauer was made a member of the Regina Urban Environment Advisory Council in 1988. She requested help from members in responding to the press and the public on environmental concerns being raised regarding water quality and possible damage to the aquifer as the City of Regina considered the relocation of railway lines and a site for another landfill. Paul James, Bob Berthiaume and Jim Elliott formed a committee to assist. Lucy Eley was appointed as the Society's representative at City Council meetings. The matter of rail line relocation became the special concern of Olga and Marie Simeon who attended Council meetings and hearings and opposed a location over the city aquifers or near the Condie Reservoir.

The Society's preferences for the location of a proposed new landfill were the subject of a brief prepared by Frank Switzer in 1990. This was presented to City Council and printed in Recreation Zone Newsletters. Lucy Eley questioned the Council regarding a proposed sale of Public Reserve land in East Gate to developers. Don Ruggles, Landscape Architect for City Parks, spoke at a regular meeting on the history of the City Parks and described the modern trend to include more natural areas, which is good news to environmentalists.

Mary Sykes

## CONSERVATION FURTHER AFIELD

While local conservation concerns have been a major focus, the Regina Natural History Society has traditionally taken an interest in provincial conservation projects and more recently in the national and international area as well.

The Society has enjoyed the advantage of having members who hold positions in the provincial government to call upon as speakers. In 1935 a talk by the Hon.G.W.Ross, Minister of Natural Resources, prompted the submission of nine resolutions to the government. They dealt with such topics as nature sanctuaries, water conservation, protection of



waterfowl, special attention to the prairie chicken population, protection for the beaver on Wascana Marsh, prohibition against the shooting of female moose, educational literature for hunters and the public, the appointment of a Game Warden for Wascana Marsh and the labelling of trees in parks.

In 1936 a Conservation Committee was appointed at the suggestion of Dick Bird. Members included Hugh Boyd, T.A.Cherry and E.D.Walker. Another RNHS member, J.H.Taylor, interviewed Premier W.J.Patterson to present the Society's resolution that the hunting season on deer be closed due to the population's decimation by recent extreme drought.

The Hon.W.G.Ross again spoke to the Society in 1937 urging conservation measures. His address, "Desert on the March" detailed the effects of drought and overcultivation.

Member Elizabeth Flock suggested the RNHS join the Canadian Conservation Society in 1943, to provide a means of approaching governments regarding the conservation of soil, wildlife, and forests. The committee in charge of this included T.W.Hunt, J.H.Flock and R.C.Mackenzie, succeeded in following years by L.T.Carmichael, Elizabeth Flock and Bruce Knox.

The Minister of Natural Resources in 1948, the Hon.J.H.Brockelbank, spoke to the RNHS of the important work which the Museum undertook on conservation matters, citing Fred Bard's efforts in relocating beavers.

In the 60s Doug Wade set the tone for Society activities by making an eloquent plea for members to take an ethical approach by studying the interlocking relationships of all living things in the environment. Incentive was there for member Pearl Guest to write to the government asking that motor boats be prohibited on Pasqua Lake, or at least on the west end where there was a large waterfowl nesting colony.

And Bill Leitch of Ducks Unlimited saw RNHS members as keen watchdogs in the battle for the preservation of wetlands.

In January 1964 Winston Mair, Chief of Canada's National Parks, spoke to the RNHS about the first wildlife sanctuary in Canada which had been set up in 1887 on Last Mountain Lake, Saskatchewan. He said it was still being well looked after by the Canadian Wildlife Service. In 1987, at its 100th anniversary ceremonies, many RNHS members were present to see the unveiling of a commemorative plaque by H.R.H. Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh and to hear announcements of the extension of the sanctuary.

A committee under H.Moulding investigated areas for wildlife preserves and nature trails. P.Huston had a special interest in establishing a walking trail along the Qu'Appelle Valley where there was an Indian trail on the south side and a Red River cart trail on the north side. He hoped to get public interest in setting up youth hostels along the route. A canoe route was also investigated. The Qu'Appelle Basin Development

Association, which was formed about this time, visualized a motor road on the north side and walking trails on the south side. Liaison with this group continued into the 70s. The motor road was completed but the walking trails were never fully established.

Individual members have at times attracted national attention. In 1964, a Conservation Award was given to Tom White by the Canadian Travel Association. White took his pictures of a bear, believed to be a grizzly, which had been shot in the Pasquia Hills, to Ottawa in 1970. Seeking support for the creation of a wilderness area in the hills, he was successful in persuading a research team from Ottawa to come to the area. White, working in conjunction with the Saskatchewan Natural History Society and the Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation, later received approval from the Simpson Timber Company and the Saskatchewan Government declared Wildcat Hill a Wilderness Area and Wildlife Sanctuary in May 1971. In June, 40 RNHS members accompanied White on a field trip to the area.

In 1971 a committee of members met with Federal Minister of Mines and Resources, the Hon. Jack Davis, regarding pollution from pulp mills in the province. He assured them that the companies were responsible for any damage costs and that they used self monitoring devices which were often checked. A brief to the Saskatchewan Water Commission on the Qu'Appelle Valley Basin was prepared for the Society by White, K.Dickson and B.Haysom. Other briefs were presented by RNHS members: P.Huston for walking trails, Jack MacKenzie for the Camping Association and W.Brownlee for Ducks Unlimited. Jim Jowsey spoke to the federal government regarding the Prince Albert National Park.

Another concern of the Society was the poisoning of predatory animals. Tom White reported in 1970 that half the population of wolves had been wiped out in Prince Albert National Park. In 1972 letters were written to the government protesting poisoning by farmers, especially near Hidden Valley, and hunting of coyotes by snowmobile.

When a petition against the leasing of the Suffield Grasslands in Alberta for British tank practice was circulated on behalf of the Edmonton Provincial Parks Association, it was signed by many members. Another petition objecting to further development at Banff, sent by the Calgary and Banff Natural History Societies, received similar attention in 1972. Members also became involved in a move to protect polar bears.

Many RNHS members and the Society joined the Canadian Nature Federation when it was formed in 1971. Environment Canada publications were received and studied. Gary Seib led an interest group study of the 12 recommendations from the Quebec Conference on Man and Resources in 1973. Some individual members attended the first National Environment and Educational Conference held in Canada.

Pollution of the air, soil and water was discussed in a panel led by George Ledingham. Later, University of Saskatchewan students Gerry Ciasnocha, Pat Toews and Howard Anderson spoke on the effects of pulp mills, such as the one at Prince Albert, on river systems and the effects of logging at Candle Lake.

In 1977 Ledingham gave a report on a Land Use Conference and stated the need for a government policy. A proposed dam on the Churchill River was opposed by the Society and members attended a hearing and presented a brief prepared by Ledingham, Elizabeth Henger, Barry Mitschke and Gary Anweiler. The dam project was shelved.

The 80s brought awareness of an increasing number of environmental concerns. Letters were written by the Society and individual members opposing a hydro dam on the Slave River in Alberta, and against a proposed highway through Riding Mountain National Park in Manitoba. Many members wrote to the federal government to protest cuts in funding for environmental research. Members learned that protection was needed for threatened areas such as Claybank, Buffalo Pound Park, Moose Mountain Park, Redberry Lake, White Butte, Cumberland Marsh and the locations for the proposed Rafferty and Alameda dams. Bob Ewart investigated the destruction of wildlife which would be caused by the new dams, and Jim Elliott prepared a brief, but protests were to no avail.

Chris Adam approached the government with a proposal for the least damaging route for a new road in the White Butte area, and Sandra Ewart helped convince the Department of Highways with Bob Long's film, "Aspen, Dancing Leaves" to accept the suggestion. Another success was the Heritage Marsh Project, funded jointly by the provincial government, Ducks Unlimited, the Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation, SNHS and Wildlife Habitat Canada. Frank Brazier attended the opening of the Nicolle Flats Interpretive Centre at Buffalo Pound Park and stated that although it was not virgin wilderness, it was still useful to preserve. A Wildlife Action Plan, an All-Terrain Vehicle Act and an Ecological Reserves Bill enacted by the government were all felt to be steps in the right direction. Paule Hjertaas presented a brief at Water Resources hearings.

A Conservation Fund was established in 1984 and has provided financial support to Heritage Marshes, the Peregrine Falcon Project and Grasslands Park. A membership was purchased in Econet, a communications network set up to educate the public about dangerous loss of habitat.

In 1985 the North American Waterfowl Management Plan was endorsed by the Society, and the provincial and federal governments were urged to proceed with its implementation and to include the Cumberland Delta in the report. This was accepted in 1986. A caravan of

those advocating the creation of South Moresby National Park in the Queen Charlotte Islands, B.C. was cheered by members as it passed through Regina.

In 1988 Paul James interviewed federal election candidates and asked them to respond publicly to a questionnaire on environmental issues. James also wrote to Alberta Forestry to express the Society's concerns about the threatened grizzly bear population in Waterton Lakes National Park.

President Kathleen Donauer urged members in 1989 to actively protect the environment, not just admire and enjoy it. "To simply sit back and remain a birder or a naturalist in the field is to condemn those activities to oblivion. We must become diligent and speak out against destruction of the environment. Your enjoyment of the field is at risk unless you do so. The time has passed to be a passive observer; you must become active and involved. And that means taking a stand sometimes that is not popular with those around you." That year, a petition was sent to the federal government asking it to ensure that at least 12 percent of Canadian land was being set aside as protected wilderness area.

In 1990 the Society entered the international conservation field with a donation of \$1000 through its Conservation Fund to the World Wildlife Fund for the Guardians of the Amazon Rainforest project.

Mary Sykes

## BIRD CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES

Birds have always been a concern of the Regina Natural History Society, beginning with a feeding program for wintering ducks and other waterfowl in 1935. By 1990 the program included bird feeders in Regina Cemetery, Sherwood Forest, at Saw-whet Bridge and White Butte. Members have been assisted in obtaining feeders and bird seed and, under the direction of Ron Peddle and the Telephone Pioneers, have built many nesting boxes for bluebirds, Tree Swallows and Purple Martins. Martin houses were purchased and installed in Wascana Centre, the Wascana Country Club and at the RCMP Barracks.

Dick Bird first urged the Society in 1943 to take an active part in the conservation and protection of hawks and owls but it was not until 1955 that the Society pressed the government for legislation against the shooting of these beneficial birds. In 1958 a brief asking for realistic protection of hawks and owls was presented to the provincial government by Glen Burgess, Robert Nero and Elmer Fox. In 1960 an amendment to the Saskatchewan Game Act was passed making it

illegal to shoot hawks and owls in the summer months unless they had attacked poultry. Now it is illegal to shoot raptors throughout the year except when livestock predation is a problem.

In 1952 Ralph Stueck spoke to the Society about his efforts to save Queenie, an injured Whooping Crane, by flying it south to be with the wintering flock. Although it had died, his main purpose was to publicize the perilous state of the Whooping Crane population. He suggested a sanctuary might be established on the Wascana for both Whooping and Sandhill Cranes.

In 1954 a photograph taken by Fred Lahrman gave international publicity to the plight of the Whooping Crane. In 1956 Fred Bard stressed the need for immediate help for the Whooping Crane and suggested a breeding program using Sandhill Cranes to incubate some Whooping Crane eggs and care for the young. In 1961 a Whooping Crane Conservation Association was established, supported by many RNHS members. The Association held annual meetings in Regina in 1972 and 1980 with help from the RNHS. Bard, Fred Lahrman, Ernie Paynter, Lorne Scott, Ruby Apperley, Audrey Traquair and Sandra Ewart have held offices in this international society. From only 18 birds in 1938, the population of Whooping Cranes has increased to 223 in 1990.

Several other birds have warranted special concern. Many members felt that there should not be a legal hunting season for Sandhill Cranes, as it put the young Whooping Cranes also at risk. Ernie Paynter, Wildlife Director for the Provincial Department of Natural Resources, tried to insure that hunting be confined to certain areas and strictly supervised. In 1964, 2000 special licenses were issued. Goose hunting in the Regina area was protested and it became a no hunting area. In 1985 Jon Triffo informed the Society of a Raptor Rehabilitation Program especially concerned with Peregrine Falcons. This program received help from the RNHS Conservation Fund. Dale Hjertaas received volunteer assistance with a Burrowing Owl Survey in 1986. In 1990 RNHS members assisted in surveys begun by the SNHS on the status of the Piping Plover.

Mary Sykes

## BIRD COUNTS

The Christmas Bird Count came about in reaction to the barbarous custom of sport hunters who annually participated in what was known as the Christmas "side hunt," where teams competed to see

which could kill the most birds. In 1900 Frank M. Chapman, an ornithologist with the American Museum of Natural History, organized the first Christmas Bird Count as an alternative to that bloodthirsty ritual. In February 1901 the results were published in *Bird Lore*, the journal of the National Audubon Society edited by Chapman. Today the results of the annual Christmas census appear in a special issue of the Audubon Society's journal, now called *American Birds*. In the Christmas Count of 1900, 27 counters censused 26 localities. Today's count draws about 40,000 counters and covers all of the United States, most of Canada and localities in Central and South America and the Caribbean.

In addition to the strictly regulated Audubon Christmas Bird Count, the province of Saskatchewan has had a less formal count since 1942, inaugurated by Isabel Priestly, Editor of the *Blue Jay*, in its first year of publication. Eight reports were published for 1942, but there was no report from Regina until 1948. Regina's first report was terse and sparse: "Dec. 27. 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Birds seen while driving from Regina to Moose Jaw. English Sparrows, several; Hungarian Partridge, 9 in two flocks; Ring-necked Pheasant, 1 male; Magpie, 2."

The next year, on 4 January 1950, S.P. Jordan reported: "Covered 5 - 6 miles west of Regina, weather bitterly cold. Sharp-tailed Grouse, 1; Hungarian Partridge, 21." On 26 December 1950 Elizabeth Barker made a two-hour count in and near the Legislative Buildings grounds and saw two Red-breasted Nuthatches, a few English Sparrows and one Pine Grosbeak (others heard). There was no Regina count in 1951; in 1952 and 1953 Barker was again the only reporter, and she saw only House Sparrows and Snow Buntings.

The first organized count with a number of people participating was made in 1954, and by 1961 as many as 37 species were recorded on count day. In 1965 Regina participated for the first time in the Audubon Count. The Christmas Bird Count thus became one of the Society's major birding activities, and as long as there was open water at the Power House, the eight-hour count could produce as many as 47 species (1975), giving the Regina Natural History Society a friendly victory over the competing Society in Saskatoon. [See Table 1.]

The Regina Natural History Society has always encouraged the participation of novice birders. The teams look forward to the count as a combination birding and social event, hoping for hot soup at noon and a chance to warm up and to visit. Margaret Belcher still serves her team Betty Cruickshank's traditional ham and lentil soup in front of a crackling fire in her fireplace.

The RNHS also conducts an annual mid-May bird census. The first May census was made 13 May 1961 and compiled by Frank Brazier.

The May Count was reported annually in the *Blue Jay* (along with counts from Saskatoon and Moose Jaw) until 1970 when the SNHS decided to save space in the journal by printing the counts in the *Newsletter*. When this practice was also abandoned, the Regina counts appeared in their own newsletter.

The Regina Society also reported first spring arrival dates to the *Blue Jay*, which participated from 1953 in a continent wide Cooperative Bird Migration Study. These lists were also discontinued because of space limitations, but the *Blue Jay* still publishes the Saskatchewan Christmas Count.

Although the *Blue Jay* no longer published its reports, the RNHS continued to prepare seasonal bird reports from the Regina area to be channelled through a regional compiler to *American Birds*. Frank

REGINA CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS			
YEAR	SPECIES	INDIVIDUALS	OBSERVERS
1954	12	240	7
1955	21	530	7
1956	21	716	9
1957	24	1747	9
1958	20	1788	9
1959	23	2112	11
1960	34	4321	27
1961	37	5475	23
1962	34	5306	24
1963	29	6823	25
1964	32	3664	25
1965	31	3538	27
1966	36	4343	24
1967	36	4775	25
1968	26	3618	27
1969	37	4607	35
1970	33	3293	37
1971	33	5587	35
1972	32	5395	40
1973	40	4925	50
1974	38	7779	62
1975	47	7239	47
1976	38	6321	50
1977	28	6406	37
1978	33	4980	31
1979	22	4379	37
1980	25	3030	22
1981	26	5672	36
1982	28	4542	27
1983	25	4834	27
1984	26	3444	15
1985	24	2823	26
1986	32	5102	35
1987	36	10471	45
1988	25	4843	21
1989	32	4827	41

Table 1. Regina Christmas Bird Counts 1954-89

Brazier compiled the first report in the spring of 1961. Mimeographed copies were sent out to the contributors as well as to the regional compiler. Later the reporting was taken on by numerous others, including Margaret Belcher and Dorothy Wade, Al and Betty Binnie (who did a long stint from 1964 to 1969), Tom Beveridge, Gary Anweiler, Robert Kreba, Chris Adam, Paul Chytyk, Frank Brazier (for a second tour of duty) and Trevor Herriot.

Contributed by Ruth Tempel, Al and Betty Binnie and Margaret Belcher.

## GRASSLANDS NATIONAL PARK

Following a tour with members of the International Botanical Congress which met in Montreal in 1959, George Ledingham gave his first "Grasslands Tour" travelogue to the Regina Natural History Society in October. He had collected 70 species of prairie grasses for the herbarium at the University of Regina but feared the loss of many of these species due to the rapid depletion of the grasslands.

In June 1964 it was reported that a brief had been prepared by Saskatchewan Natural History Society members Robert Nero, Margaret Belcher and Ledingham which was presented to the provincial and federal governments regarding the need for preservation of some grassland ecosystem. The committee had picked, as an example, the Killdeer to Val Marie area in southwestern Saskatchewan. Negotiations began with the federal government, which conducted ground and aerial explorations, but the ranchers and the Saskatchewan Government were not cooperative. Ledingham again spoke to the RNHS in 1969 showing slides of some of about a dozen prairie dog towns on the Frenchman River, the only place in Canada where they can be found. The SNHS was trying to get local people to protect them but was also able to obtain a lease on some prairie dog habitat which it still holds outside the present Grasslands National Park boundaries.

During the 1970s, RNHS worked with SNHS in presenting briefs and resolutions supporting the grasslands park. George Ledingham became Chairman of the Grasslands Park Committee of the provincial society. A series of disagreements between the federal and provincial governments over mineral and water rights in the proposed park kept things at a standstill. In 1973 Ledingham again spoke, as Chairman, on the urgency of negotiations to establish a park. Public pressure was needed. The society and many individual members wrote letters to the government departments involved. Finally, a memorandum of intent to establish a park was signed by both federal and provincial governments

in March 1975, and in 1976 the federal government held the promised hearings to assess support for the park. Ledingham presented a personal brief at Val Marie and the SNHS brief in Regina. In Regina, the RNHS also presented a brief prepared by Jim Jowsey, Gary Seib, Frank Switzer and Elizabeth Henger.

In 1978 Ledingham and a panel of speakers from Parks Canada and the Department of Tourism answered questions on the present progress on establishment of the park. In 1979 a SNHS brief was presented to the Environmental Advisory Council for Saskatchewan identifying the grasslands park as one of the environmental issues of the 1980s. Similar briefs were given by Jowsey for RNHS, Lorne Scott for Indian Head and Dianne Secoy for the University Women's Club of Regina. They stressed the need for an Ecological Reserves Act, better protection of endangered species, better enforcement, better publicity and an urgent need for a grasslands park to help save endangered animals such as the Northern Kit Fox and Black-footed Ferret. Petitions were circulated and many more letters written.

The agreement to establish Grasslands National Park was signed by the two governments on 19 June 1981, but for some years no further action was taken. In September 1987 Ledingham reported that five conservation groups had met and proposed a compromise to the Provincial and Federal Departments of the Environment. Finally, in 1988 a Grasslands National Park Agreement was signed. It was announced that the federal government would match funds collected to help buy land for the park. The RNHS, through its Conservation Fund, showed its support with a donation of \$500.00 to the Grasslands Park Trust Fund.

Mary Sykes



## Regina Natural History Society *Newsletter*

Communication with members has been maintained in a consistent manner over the 60 years of RNHS history. Various news bulletins, monthly letters or newsletters, the correspondence usually included information about the next meeting or workshop, a list of field trips or other events, a list of the Executive, and the aims of the Society.

A typical message in these letters encouraged members to bring a friend, or new member. Some requests were brief: "New members and membership dues will be welcomed." Others were more beguiling:

"Your friends will appreciate your thoughtfulness, if you bring them to our meetings and explain our purpose...." From a 1944 example, "Your cooperation is asked to increase our membership. Bring a friend who is interested in the out of doors." And in 1973, "We have 290 members at the time of this writing; let's see if we can increase it substantially for the coming year." A special effort was made in the 1980s, when Membership Chairman Paul Chytky designed an attractive, illustrated brochure outlining the aims of the Society, information on current projects and a membership application form.

The style of the newsletters changed over the years. Early examples had no letterhead or logo, and were reproduced by cutting a stencil. Later, a green letterhead design was printed, featuring a sketch of a Sharp-tailed Grouse on the left, a Western Red Lily on the right with...the name Regina Natural History Society in hand lettering. Copying letters by Ditto later produced a quick, but unattractive purple letterhead.

During the 50s and 60s, a lightweight cardboard program listing all the events for the year was printed and mailed to all members in September. Members were reminded to keep this because it was the only program for the whole year. This must have required planning for speakers several months in advance.

The September 1971 *Newsletter*, probably copied on a Xerox machine, featured the Society's new logo, a pair of coyotes designed by Jack Pickering, an artist with the Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History. The logo has been maintained to the present.

Some editors obviously enjoyed writing editorials and quite lengthy news items, others efficiently reported the essentials. Some included quotations such as the following from Gary Seib's May 1973 *Newsletter*: "We do not remember days, we remember moments." (Cesare Pavese) ....For the naturalist, spring is filled with many moments to remember. The warmth of the sun on a clear spring day, the beauty of fur clad crocus buds pushing their way up through the soil, the haunting calls of a flock of whistling swans as they wing their way northward; all these are memories we will cherish...the field trip program...will be an opportunity for you to experience a great many such moments to remember."

The most recent *Newsletter* has been given a highly professional look through the use of desk top publishing. Editor Trevor Herriot, an artist and writer, has added delightful nature sketches as well as gleanings from environmental journals and feature articles contributed by members.

Sixty years from now will we still communicate on paper, or will it be by personal recorded television messages?

Kay Ferguson



Hon. President Hon. J.H. Brooksbank	Secretary Mrs. G.F. Ledingham	Executive Margaret Belcher
President W.A. Benson	Treasurer H.W. Stevenson	Dora Bonser
Past President E.L. Fayter		Bruce Knox
		Mrs. L. McK. Robinsco.

GREETINGS FROM  
THE



**REGINA NATURAL  
HISTORY SOCIETY**

REGINA, SASKATCHEWAN



Hon. President Hon. J. L. Phelps	President Mr. H. A. Croome	Executive Miss M. Moore
Past President Dr. J. G. Rempel	Sec. - Treasurer Mr. J. H. Flock	Mrs. F. McInnis
		Miss R. Houston

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Mr. F. T. Gorle  
Mr. R. C. Mackenzie



MONTHLY BULLETIN  
REGINA NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY  
REGINA, SASKATCHEWAN



September 7th, 1944.



**REGINA NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY**  
REGINA SASKATCHEWAN



**Regina Natural History Society**  
REGINA, SASKATCHEWAN, CANADA

## BIOGRAPHIES

### INTRODUCTION

Our Society has always attracted a great variety of people who bring with them a diversity of abilities, training and energy. Some choose or are thrust into positions of leadership, some encounter or search out challenging projects for the Society, and some become involved in important research which causes them to become better known world wide than at home. Many work diligently at the routine jobs that are the backbone of the Society. All make a worthwhile contribution in their own way.

We have been able to recognize those who leave letters, documents, notes and minutes. Others have left little by way of written notes, or their records have been lost during the inevitable moves from one basement or filing cabinet to another as changes occur in a volunteer organization over the years.

We have attempted to write short biographies of some members of RNHS. Please excuse us if we have neglected important people, projects or achievements due to limited resources and space. The writers would be pleased to forward an article, in the event of such an omission, for publication in the RNHS *Newsletter*. Contact us at Box 291, Regina, Saskatchewan, S4P 3A1.

*Kay Ferguson, Coordinator,  
Senior Naturalists' History Project,  
Regina Natural History Society*

### FRED BARD

Fred Bard, 23 years Director of the Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History, worked for the good of the Museum and his community for 45 years. It was in his workroom that the original four men who started the RNHS met in January 1933. Bard was a charter member and the Society's second secretary-treasurer. In the early years he was an active member, frequently speaking at general meetings and encouraging Museum staff and Society members to work for the mutual benefit of both.

He started banding birds at his home beside Wascana Creek, and eventually became recognised as a North American ornithologist. The Wascana Canada Goose population started when Abernethy naturalist, Ralph Stueck, presented Bard with the famous pair Hiawatha and Queenie. Also at his Creek-side home he developed his skill as a

photographer which eventually resulted in a Yorkton Film Festival award of excellence for "The Pelicans of Last Mountain Lake."

Early in his career Bard became involved with the conservation of Whooping Cranes. He and Museum staff gathered yearly records, photographed the cranes and put together a whooping Crane film.

He was instrumental in establishing Wascana Waterfowl Park and Condie Nature Refuge, both out-of-doors museums. The culmination of his dreams was the building of the new Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History, renowned for its lifelike and detailed displays.

Jeanie Wagner cited this quotation from Bard in *Blue Jay* (December 1970): "Modern man...urbanized, has no conception of the value of quiet (which) makes man heedless of the fact that destruction of the quiet wilderness areas of the world will destroy that life which requires quietness for survival."

Kay Ferguson

## MARGARET BELCHER

When she went to teach French at Regina College in 1944, Margaret Belcher shared an office with the late Dr. Lucy Murray and was introduced by her to the Regina Natural History Society. Many RNHS members credit their love and knowledge of birds to the Saturday afternoons in spring and fall when Belcher, Murray and others took beginners in tow through the Legislative Buildings grounds and helped them identify the many migrants that swarmed through Regina. Her records from those Saturday walks of the 50s (along with the field notes kept by J.H. Taylor of observations made on the famous early morning bird hikes that his generation initiated, and the column "About Birds" in the *Leader Post*, written by another early member of the Society, journalist Hugh Boyd from 1933-37) provided information for Belcher's *Birds of Regina* (SNHS, 1961, 1980). That publication actually grew out of a RNHS activity; its original inspiration came from the Society's plan to mark Jubilee Year 1955 by publishing studies of various aspects of the



natural history of the Regina Plains. None of these studies got off the ground except the bird check-list.

Following her first offices with the Society as a press representative, and part of the Library Committee, Belcher was elected to the executive in 1951 and served for five consecutive years. She says, "I may have been Secretary all those years ... certainly it was my favourite office; it kept one *au courant* of all the Society's activities and involved in many of them." About the duties of Secretary, she remembers the single sheet newsletter which kept members informed. It was always headed by an epigraph, usually a few lines of poetry such as:

O sweet October morning mild  
Begin the hours of this day slow!

As well as recording minutes of meetings, the Secretary in those days was necessarily involved in preparing Society briefs, maintaining contact with SNHS, helping organize film shows, and hosting guests and the meetings of the provincial Society.

Belcher especially enjoyed the Society's field trips and workshops and remembers, on one occasion, trying to key plants during a winter botany study group; on another, learning how to prepare and use study skins at a bird class led by Bob Nero.

Her most consistent activity in the Society has revolved around the Christmas and May Bird Counts. For almost 40 years she has been part of the counts, latterly as an area team leader taking her team to her suite for lunch at noon, proving that comradeship is as important as bird study in the RNHS.

Through her continued membership, Belcher has always been available as a resource person to RNHS. She went on to hold executive positions in SNHS from 1954 to 1974, including that of President. The *Blue Jay* has published over 55 of her articles, including one on the first specimen record of the Pine Warbler. She has long been part of the editorial board of *Blue Jay* and in the 80s plunged into research on literary birding leading to the publication of *Bird Imagery in the Lyric Poetry of Tristan L'Hermite* (1988).

While in the midst of compiling the history of the SNHS, she has found time to lend her valued expertise and advice to assist with this book, *Nature in Trust*. Belcher was presented by Frank Brazier to SNHS as a Fellow to mark her outstanding service to the ideals of the Society and by her good friend and renowned naturalist Elizabeth Cruickshank as an Honorary Member of RNHS for "serving the causes and concerns of naturalists here and farther afield as well to express appreciation for a great, capable, fearless, honourable person who is a tireless researcher."

Kay Ferguson

## DICK BIRD (1892-1986) AND ADA BIRD

A former President of RNHS, better known world-wide than here at home, Dick Bird began an impressive career in photography at age 17 with a secondhand 35mm movie camera. With it, he roamed the world as a freelance cameraman photographing news events and making travelogues. In 1922 he and his family settled in Regina where he produced films for the Government of Saskatchewan. The first Bird Films Ltd. retail outlet opened in 1928.

Bird's friend Fred Bradshaw, Director of the Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History, encouraged Bird to photograph wildlife. A first attempt to film the nest and offspring of a longspur resulted in frustrating failure when the bird led him in circles. But he persevered and soon was an extremely popular guest speaker with his wonderful films of the natural world. "Shooting Birds and Animals with a Camera" was his first showing to an RNHS meeting in February 1935.

Bird was President of RNHS in 1938-39 when he first presented the film "Camera Trails along Nature Trails." For the next four years he entertained annually at meetings with updated versions of the film. For 13 weeks in 1940, he involved RNHS members in a series of Nature Quiz Programs over CKRM radio. Dick Bird was also in great demand as a speaker throughout Saskatchewan and later internationally. He began a radio nature series, "Camera Trails," on CKCK in 1936 and formed a radio Camera Trailers Club.

In 1946, Bird married Ada Bovee, a teacher and naturalist from Avonlea. They worked together photographing wildlife and giving lecture tours. Harris B. Tuttle, of the Eastman Kodak Company, said in a *Maclean's* Magazine article (April 1955) that Dick and Ada Bird were "probably the outstanding photographers of birds and wildlife in North America."

To get fine nature film the Birds spent long summers tenting in prairie, bush, swamp and mountain terrain. They spent five months each year from 1951-1955 near Banff filming wildlife sequences for Disney television shows and they were booked by a Chicago agent for the National Geographic Society, Columbia University and the Pittsburgh Academy of Arts and Science. Bird later ended the association with Disney when he felt the artificial set-ups used in photographing animals caused them undue stress. Their films were later shown as part of the Audubon Screen Tours. On tour, Dick provided a commentary enlivened with humour and a strong conservation message, while Ada ran the projector.

The RNHS honored Bird with a Life Membership in 1965 when he presented his film "My Favourite Friends." At the December 1976 meeting a tribute to Bird prepared by H.C. Andrews was read

acknowledging his Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree from the University of Regina. On his 93rd birthday, a National Film Board friend described Dick Bird as "...that indomitable pioneer along the rocky trail of Canadian film making."

Dick Bird died in October 1986 and at the time of publishing Ada lives at Regina Beach where she is active in the Anglican Church and enjoys singing with a group of seniors. She speaks with great affection and enthusiasm about Bird and their adventures together.

*Kay Ferguson*

## FRANK BRAZIER

Frank Brazier's early interest in writing and natural history have both turned into lifelong pursuits. From his initial literary success as first prize winner in the Junior Story Contest in grade ten, a story which was subsequently published in the Moose Jaw Central Collegiate Yearbook (1928-1929), Brazier has contributed more than 40 articles over the years to the *Blue Jay*. Notable among them was a review of "Mammals of the Transition Zone" in the December 1954 issue. Prior to the American Ornithologists' Union meeting in Regina in 1959, he also saw his review of birds of the Regina area published in the *Leader Post*.

Brazier was attracted to the world of nature during a trip to Banff in 1929. He recalls, "...I bought a small field guide which helped me identify those birds I could approach close enough to see clearly. I well remember my first Golden Eagle sailing by, Pine Siskins which explored the spruce trees a few feet away, and a Long-eared Owl which dozed in a spruce tree beside a busy sidewalk."

A dedicated birder ever since, Brazier has to his credit confirmed sightings of a Blue-winged Warbler, Ruff, Black-throated Gray Warbler and hypothetical sightings of Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Common Pochard, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Black-tailed Godwit, Least Tern and McKay's Bunting. Also on his list of rarities is the sighting of a cougar near Tregarva with Elmer Fox.

A long time member of both RNHS and SNHS, Brazier served as President of RNHS in 1954-55 and on the Executive Board for many years. He served as President of SNHS in 1956-57, and during a long term as treasurer took on management of the Blue Jay Bookshop and continued in that latter post for 25 years, until 1987. Many may remember the World Wandering film series and Audubon Screen Tours which Brazier helped to organize in Regina.

With his late wife Marjorie, Brazier enjoyed natural history trips to many exciting places such as Trinidad, Belize and Majorca. He still



walks around Wascana Lake almost every day observing the seasons of nature.

Editor

### ELIZABETH ROLEY CRUICKSHANK (1895-1989)

Everyone of her generation in both the Regina and the Saskatchewan Natural History Societies knew Elizabeth Cruickshank, long time member of both these organizations and a person warmly attuned to the world of nature around her. In addition, an extended circle of nature lovers came to know her as the Liz Roley of the Regina *Leader Post's* "Nature Notes," where she wrote imaginatively of both unusual sightings and homely everyday observations. She kept up this weekly column, beginning in 1956, for over 25 years, and a selection of her notes was published in book form in 1976 as *A Second Look*, with illustrations by her daughter, Mollie Lawrence.



In all her activities as a naturalist — acting on the executives of the two natural history societies, campaigning through both of them for the new Museum of Natural History, writing nature scripts for the CBC's school broadcasts, speaking to clubs and to hundreds of visitors to the Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History where she manned the information desk and the Blue Jay Bookshop, and continually encouraging young people's interest in nature, her mission was to inculcate the habit of taking "a second look."

She was Elizabeth Keirstead when she arrived in Regina in 1916, a young teacher from New Brunswick who had been at Teachers' College with Lloyd Carmichael and shared his love of nature and of poetry. Arriving in Saskatchewan on a bitterly cold January day in a suit and button shoes, she did not think that she would like it, but she stayed to teach in Regina, married W.K. Cruickshank and learned to love the prairies. Wherever she went, she found beauty in the world around her, for she had the poet's capacity

To see a world in a grain of sand  
And a heaven in a wild flower.

Cruickshank was a great companion on a field trip, with her sense of humour and fund of stories and a lunch basket from which she produced such goodies as her homemade scones. The basket lunch was particularly popular with her young companions and one of the boys once asked when we were on an outing looking for ducks, "Betty, have you got any scaups today?"

One of the most active of Regina's citizens, Cruickshank contributed in many ways to the "quality of life" of her city and province through the years of the Depression and the Second World War. Her warm hearted and courageous acts of service were recognized time and time again. For her volunteer war work she was awarded the Order of the British Empire. She was a charter member of the Regina Branch of the Canadian Women's Press Club and was one of 12 journalists receiving the 1967 Centennial Medal. She received the Saskatchewan Natural History Society's Annual Conservation Award in 1968, and became its Honorary President. In 1980 the University of Regina conferred on her an honorary Doctor of Laws in recognition of her distinguished citizenship.

Margaret Belcher

### ELIZABETH FLOCK



Photograph of Elizabeth Flock approximately 1943. Photographer unknown.

First listed on the RNHS executive in December 1933, Elizabeth Flock's initial presentation to the Society was on 17 May 1943 when she gave a talk on Saskatchewan wild flowers, illustrated with 50 beautiful coloured lantern slides. She had made arrangements to borrow photos of wild flowers from North Dakota Agriculture College, Canadian Pacific Railway and W.C. McCalla, Principal of Alberta Provincial Normal School, from which Dick Bird made hand coloured glass slides for 50 cents each. In his quotation, Bird states, "these prices are special to your Society in order that you may

obtain the best possible value for the money we understand you have to spend on this material."

Some money came from a fund raising presentation by a favorite naturalist Dan McGowan and some was presented to RNHS by the Regina Gyro Club. In the depth of the depression, people were generous to one another.

In 1934 Flock was Secretary Treasurer. She wrote letters to many local organizations urging them to plan, as a group, to visit the Museum of Natural History on a Sunday afternoon and she carefully orchestrated dates to avoid over crowding. No wonder Museum Director Fred Bradshaw was able to report to the Society "...that the public heartily approved of the project, and the interest created will undoubtedly assist in the further development of the museum idea."

In 1936, Flock wrote to the principals of all Regina secondary schools to inform them of meeting and workshop topics and dates, and to encourage teachers and students to attend.

She published her book, *Wild Flowers of the Prairie Provinces* (Regina and Toronto: School Aids and Text Book Publishing Co. [n.d.]) illustrated with drawings by her husband J. Harry Flock, in 1942. From information in RNHS News Bulletins, Elizabeth Flock remained an active member, speaking at meetings on flowers, birds, and travels and writing articles published in the *Regina Leader Post*. In recognition, she was presented with a Life Membership and a Jubilee Paper Knife in 1955. A tribute was read by Fred Bard.



Kay Ferguson

## JIM AND SHIRLEY JOWSEY

"Naturalists are people with a feeling for the whole of life...they...identify with the flowers, the birds,...and other living animals...and to the changing seasons...." That is how Jim and Shirley Jowsey view themselves as naturalists. Making natural history studies, particularly of birds and flowers, a casual and professional interest in their lives came quite naturally as both are from farm backgrounds. So did enjoyment of RNHS meetings and field trips, and valued associations with fellow academics and amateur naturalists. The Jowseys themselves were the organizers and leaders of many of these expeditions.

Increased involvement with RNHS activities began in the mid 60s. At the urging of Frank Brazier, Jim helped with promoting the Audubon Screen Tours and worked with Brazier, Sylvia (Harrison) vanBrienen and Helen Keay on the organization of the Blue Jay Bookshop. He also participated in the Saturday afternoon bird watchers group.

From 1965 on through the 70s, Jim and Shirley were involved in executive offices of either or both RNHS and SNHS, with Jim first serving on the RNHS executive in 1967.

In 1988 they were made Fellows of SNHS and in May 1989 they became Honorary Members of RNHS.

A major achievement for the Jowseys was the realization of a goal to "...open the eyes of people of all ages as they look at the flowers of this region..." and to share some of their acquired appreciation of the natural world. In February 1973 Shirley came up with the production and publication plan which was to result in a new book of color photographs, drawings and descriptions of wildflowers of Saskatchewan and similar adjacent areas of the northern portion of North America's "Great Plains." In collaboration with Fenton R. Vance and Jim S. McLean, the Jowseys produced *Wildflowers Across the Prairies* (Western Producer Prairie Books, 1977; revised 1984). This comprehensive work includes photographs contributed by a number of RNHS members, and has become a valuable reference for botanists. The second edition included 112 new species, and was also published in the United States as *Wildflowers of the Northern Great Plains* (University of Minnesota Press, 1984).

The Jowseys recall that "the whole project was an example of cooperation of interested parties, many pleasant social times on field trips ... and a lot of sorting, typing and editing by Shirley." The RNHS hosted a social gathering to launch the first edition and on other occasions presented the book to the public to the great pleasure of the authors and contributors.

Jim and Shirley continue to pursue their interest in nature from their retirement home near Saltcoats, and to enjoy the companionship of fellow naturalists at meetings or field trips throughout Saskatchewan.

Kay Ferguson

## ROBERT KREBA

Robert Kreba has served on the executive of RNHS in various capacities since 1976. At one time he was the only adult on the Junior

Naturalists executive, acting as liaison to the Society's executive.

Kreba has been most conspicuous within the Society for his work as Field Trip Chairperson, and as Vice-President, a position which gave him the responsibility for selecting programs for the RNHS monthly meetings. In the former capacity, he has established a reputation as an experienced birder largely through his own studies. He has also become knowledgeable about astronomy, fungi, amphibians and is presently working on botany. Varied and creative, the field trips under his direction have run every second week all year long. When other excursions were not scheduled, he has often been available as a resource person for impromptu trips.

Kreba's position at the Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History, where he prepares, researches, writes and edits print material for exhibits, has proven advantageous to the Society as he has been able to locate many highly qualified guest speakers to make presentations at RNHS meetings.

Kreba has prepared the sixth (1983) and seventh (1990) editions of *Field Checklist of Saskatchewan Birds* and is co-author with Christopher I.G. Adam, Thomas B. Riffel and Robert A. Luterbach of *A Birdfinding Guide to the Regina Area*.

Kay Ferguson

## GEORGE LEDINGHAM

George Ledingham joined the RNHS when he came to work as a biology instructor at Regina College in 1939. Because his first love was botany, he admits to having little knowledge of birds until his involvement with the Society. He used to say that being the only biologist in Regina he was expected to be President of the RNHS. He held that position from 1949-51, and later from 1977-78. In addition, Ledingham helped to organize the SNHS in 1949 serving as its first president and later as editor of the *Blue Jay* for 16 years. He won its Conservation Award in 1966 and was made a Fellow of the Society in 1987.

In a tribute to Ledingham when he was given an Honorary Membership at the Annual Meeting in May 1989, Margaret Belcher summed up his contribution to the RNHS this way, "Both during his terms as president and in the intervening years, George promoted conservation education, nature films and workshops, and field trips. He led botany hikes at natural history meetings and did field camps in the Cypress Hills. He was enthusiastic about the acquisition of Hidden Valley, and was on the first sanctuary committee. He

supported the Saskatchewan Natural History Museum and was a long-time friend of its director Fred Bard. He wrote endless briefs and spoke to government officials and to commissions, and at public hearings. He devoted years of his life, and committed the Regina Society along with himself, to the establishment of a national grasslands park. The RNHS was, in fact, an important outlet for his work in promoting a holistic understanding of our environment."

Ledingham's interest in Hidden Valley has continued and he urges fellow members to "know the diversity of native plants and animals of the area." Since the 1950s, he has been instrumental in pushing for the development of Grasslands National Park in southwest Saskatchewan. Using slides of the prairie dog town near Frenchman River in 1965, Ledingham stressed the need to retain the grasslands. In 1971, he continued to promote the proposed park in an interview for the National Film Board. His long-term dedication to the advancement of this conservation goal earned him the J.B. Harkin Conservation Award (National and Provincial Parks Association of Canada) in 1981 and the Douglas H. Pimlott Award (Canadian Nature Federation) in 1985. (Only in September 1988 was the formal federal-provincial agreement to establish Grasslands National Park signed.)

Upon Ledingham's retirement as editor of the *Blue Jay*, J.A. Wedgewood wrote *A Tribute to George Ledingham* for the March 1973 issue of the magazine. In it, he comments: "George was usually ahead of us, expressing concern for the environment, pointing to conservation problems. His first editorial, in 1956, mentioned the need for protection of hawks and owls in Saskatchewan — year-round protection finally became a fact in 1971." Other examples of Ledingham's foresight included reference in 1959 to the lack of attention to harmful effects of pesticides (changes in the use of DDT came 11 years later), and his suggestion in 1961 of issuing wildlife stamps to raise funds for purchasing habitat (In 1970 hunting licence fees were increased to create a Wildlife Development Fund).

While officially retired from the University of Regina since 1978, Ledingham has remained Honorary Curator of the University's Herbarium (now named after him), where he can indulge his passion for plants by continuing the work of classifying them "for the benefit of future generations." The University awarded him its Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree in 1986.

For his life-long commitment to fostering an understanding of nature and the preservation of the natural environment, the RNHS counts itself fortunate to have George Ledingham among its number.

Editor

## ROBERT W. NERO

In the early years Fred Bradshaw and Fred Bard of the Museum staff were the stalwarts of the newly formed Regina Natural History Society. In later years, other members of the Museum staff lent their support to the local society and stimulated natural history activities in general. Robert Nero, a graduate of the University of Wisconsin, who came to the new Museum in 1955 as Assistant Director, was a professional who recognized the importance of the amateur in the field of natural history. He understood the term "research" in a broad sense, as including all factual recording and all original studies. All such activity, he felt, contributed to a better understanding of the environment.

Nero often accompanied the Regina Natural History Society's Saturday birders and helped to establish the status of birds in the area. He gave classes for amateur birders at the Museum and encouraged amateurs to undertake special study topics, and he helped amateurs, especially young would-be naturalists, to prepare their reports. His guidance helped to shape local records into Margaret Belcher's *Birds of Regina*.

In Regina, Nero continued his own research which stemmed from his PH.D. thesis on the Red-winged Blackbird. Later, he extended his studies into other parts of Saskatchewan, with several publications resulting from his work. When he was starting to explore the bird life of northern Saskatchewan, the RNHS contributed \$250 to support his studies.

Nero was instrumental in getting the prestigious American Ornithologists' Union to hold its first meeting in Western Canada in Regina in 1959. Logically, he was made chairman of the Local Committee on Arrangements which had representation from all the sponsoring organizations, the Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History, the SNHS, Regina College of the University of Saskatchewan, and the RNHS.

Nero left the Museum in 1961 to join the staff of the Department of Biology at the University of Saskatchewan, Regina Campus, and in 1966 moved to the Manitoba Museum of Man and Nature in Winnipeg. He still lives in Winnipeg after retiring in 1991 from the Manitoba Natural Resources Department.

*Margaret Belcher*

## LORNE SCOTT

Born on a farm and educated in a one-room school, Lorne Scott was able to observe wildlife first hand from an early age. Later, while working with the Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History from 1967 to 1975, he began encouraging young people to observe, understand and value the natural world around them. Many benefitted from his leadership as he worked with RNHS members to organize talks, tours, Museum events and field trips for youth groups.

Saint Chad's Outdoor Club had a large and active group from October 1968 until the school closed in June 1970. Scott led trips to Condie Nature Refuge, around Wascana Lake to see nesting geese, to a grouse dancing ground, and to a Great Blue Heron colony. At his encouragement, young people attended RNHS meetings and participated in discussions and quizzes, worked on drawings at the Museum and took charge of display tables at the 1969 Annual Meeting of SNHS.

We learn from Scott's 1970 Annual Report that he conducted a workshop for 60 Girl Guide leaders, with the assistance of five RNHS members. They spent the day viewing slides, touring the Museum and on field trips to Wascana Centre and Condie Nature Refuge. A donation of \$25 was given to RNHS in appreciation for the help with the workshop. During 1969-70, Scott reported 20 slide presentations to youth groups. For his work with young people, the SNHS awarded him its 1969 Conservation Award.

Scott developed an interest in bluebirds when he began building nest boxes at the age of 15. By 1975, he had set out over 2,000 boxes for bluebirds and Tree Swallows. In 1968 he received a Federal Bird Banding Permit and has since banded over 24,000 birds including 6,000 Mountain Bluebirds. He has been actively involved in the North American Bluebird Society and received a Conservation Award from that organization.

Scott has a record of involvement in many wildlife organizations including SNHS (President 1979-82 for an unprecedented term of three years), the Whooping Crane Conservation Association (of which he was made a Life Member in 1974 and subsequently became President), and the Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation (President 1987 and 1988). He has also been honored by such groups as Ducks Unlimited Canada, the Saskatchewan Outdoor and Environmental Education Association and the Canadian Nature Federation which gave him its 1990 Douglas H. Pimlott Award. In 1981 he won a Governor General's Conservation Award and the Gordon Lund Conservation Trophy (SWF); in 1989 he won the Canadian Wildlife Service's Roland Mitchener Conservation Award.

While serving as Provincial Habitat Chairman and President of SWF, he was responsible for starting a major lobby to protect critical wildlife habitat on Crown land in Saskatchewan. In 1987, Scott helped host Prince Philip's visit to the province to promote wildlife conservation.

A popular speaker, Scott draws a large crowd for his presentations at RNHS meetings. His message is always one of concern for wildlife habitat.

*Kay Ferguson*

## GARY SEIB

Gary Seib took on the role of President during 1972 and 1973 after serving a year as Vice-President. He was Editor of the RNHS *Newsletter* at the same time. The delightful prose he quoted along with the necessary information on programs and field trips was a trademark of his years with the *Newsletter*. He later became President of SNHS and edited the *Blue Jay* for four years.

Seib's first love is photography. With Cherry Films, he produced a series for Saskatchewan Education on the kangaroo rat of the southwest Sand Hills and Cypress Hills. At present, Gary is appreciating the immediate gratification of producing excellent photography for CBC TV, Regina.

In retrospect, Gary does not recall being particularly busy during his executive years with RNHS, but remembers the helpful cooperation of executive colleagues and members.

*Kay Ferguson*

## FRANK SWITZER

Although modest about his accomplishments, Frank Switzer is a remarkable naturalist. A four-time President of RNHS, he has been on the board of one Natural History Society or another - the Yorkton, the Regina or the Saskatchewan - for 24 of the past 29 years.

Switzer's mother, a botany specialist, instilled in her son a love of plants and nature in his early years on the farm near Yorkton. He was President of the Yorkton Natural History Society for one term, but primarily worked with youth in Scouts, Guides, 4H Clubs and for five years, with the Outdoor Program of Yorkton School Board.

Switzer learned about birds by accompanying the Saturday bird watching group led by Margaret Belcher, Lucy Murray and Elizabeth Cruickshank. One of his best memories comes from the trip to the north end of Last Mountain Lake taken during the American Ornithologists' Union Meetings in Regina in 1959, to see the Sandhill Cranes on their staging ground in fall migration. A group of renowned ornithologists peered up through binoculars, heads uncomfortably bent, watching Sandhill Cranes, thousands upon thousands, layer upon layer, circling and rising in an updraft. Switzer decided the best view was from flat on his back on the ground. A grey-haired fellow took the same position, commenting that this was the best view point, and introducing himself as Roger Tory Peterson.

Now that he is retired, a good deal of Switzer's time is spent on photography and in presenting slide shows to community groups. Botany, birds, babies and rocks, in that order, are his favourite subjects to photograph. His inventory of slides includes close to 200 species of birds, 600 species of wild plants native to western Canada and a great collection of insects, mammals, amphibians and reptiles, all methodically organized. At the AOU Meeting in 1959, a noted ornithologist was speaking about the precopulation display of the American Avocet, but had no pictures. Switzer had three slides of this display. He has exhibited black and white photographs in the SPC Gallery on the Roof and also exhibits as a member of the Regina Photo Club.

Over the years, Presidents and other executive members of the RNHS have worked so hard when in office that they seemed to 'burn out' and leave the Society once their term expired. Certainly that is not Frank Switzer's way. He has continued year after year to work at the ordinary jobs of the Society, teaching bird watching, leading school children on nature walks, and regularly being the guest speaker at Society meetings.

Switzer has been a long time advocate of having a dual membership fee for both the Regina and Saskatchewan Societies believing that this would give the SNHS a stronger voice on provincial and national concerns.

*Kay Ferguson*

## FENTON AND IRENE VANCE

The travelling nature movies and slide shows presented by naturalists fired the imagination of Fenton Vance, a young man at school in Kamsack. Many years passed, however, before he was able to buy a good camera and take the kind of pictures we enjoy in *Wildflowers Across the Prairies*.

(Western Producer Prairie Books, 1977; revised 1984) which he co-authored with Jowsey and McLean.

Vance attributes his motivation and success in photographing wild flowers to two events; the purchase of his first car in 1950 at the age of 43, and his marriage to Irene in 1951. She liked riding in the country and had a sharp eye for wild flowers. During the next 25 years, they spent all their free time searching for and photographing the wild flowers of Saskatchewan. Of an estimated 1500 flowering plant species in the province, Vance has photographed 477 in bloom. On their photography holidays, Irene searched out new flowers, marking each with a wire coathanger flagged with red reflector tape, while Fenton captured them on film.

Often neither he nor Irene knew the names of the plants but when they had a collection of slides ready, they had an evening's showing with Elizabeth Flock, Elizabeth Cruickshank or Sylvia Harrison as guests, using their expertise to help identify the photos. Vance learned how important it is "to take principle features of identification of the wild flowers, not just the blossom." They kept careful notes on the geographic location as well as the type of ecosystem each flower inhabited. No doubt these records were indispensable when a call from Jim Jowsey in October 1973 set Vance photographing and collecting his best shots for the book they published in 1977.

Had health allowed, Vance wanted to publish his own book of wild flowers, giving the exact location of each photograph. However, he now feels it was just as well that this project was never realized. If he had revealed the exact spot, some might have gone just to pick the flowers, and so destroy them. Through his whole life, one of his major concerns was the protection of Saskatchewan native flora, as his long campaign for the protection of the provincial floral emblem showed.

Fenton and Irene presented slide shows of their wonderful pictures to groups throughout the province and frequently at meetings of RNHS. Vance feels the book *Wildflowers Across the Prairies* was the ultimate realization of his and Irene's long and most cherished dream. The book contains their contribution - "a legacy to the land they loved."

Kay Ferguson

## TOM WHITE

Tom White, born in England and raised in Wales, was a conservationist, natural historian and poet. An architect by profession, he came to Saskatchewan in 1959 with his wife Pam and soon after

joined the RNHS, in which he was active until his premature death in 1984. His earlier pursuits of fencing and hunting were soon totally replaced with an abiding interest in Saskatchewan wildlife and its preservation.

White served as President of the Society in 1965 and Chairman of the Conservation Committee. Under his leadership, the Committee submitted briefs to the federal government on Prince Albert National Park, to the provincial government on the Qu'Appelle Valley system and the Pasquia Hills. In conjunction with the Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation and the SNHS, he was instrumental in having a large area of the Pasquia Hills designated as the Wildcat Hill Wilderness Area.

His fascination for the Pasquia Hills, and the tales which came from this largely untouched area, led White to the work on the cougar for which he became known in wildlife circles across the country. In 1962 expert opinion was that cougars were not indigenous to the province but in the next several years White set up a remarkable network of contacts with farmers, RCMP officers, trappers, hunters and native people. Every possible weekend and holiday saw White, frequently with members of his family, off to investigate another report of tracks, sightings or kills to be recorded and charted on a map until a definite picture emerged. This accumulated data was used in his book, *Saskatchewan Cougar - Elusive Cat* (Saskatchewan Natural History Society, 1982). The book documented and confirmed that cougars are indigenous to Saskatchewan in a band running from the Pasquia and Porcupine Hills, along the Saskatchewan River and Qu'Appelle Valley complex, and into the Cypress Hills area in quite substantial numbers for a carnivore of solitary habits.

White's poetry reflected his passion for conservation, wildlife and Saskatchewan, and a number of his poems were published in the periodical *Defenders of Wildlife News*. Just prior to his death, a compilation of his poems was published under the title *Wilderness Ways, Saskatchewan Poems* (Forbes Anderson Press, 1984).

White was honoured by having a northern lake named after him but credit is also due to the members of the RNHS of the day for their active support and encouragement of his endeavours.

Leslie Harmsworth

## APPENDIX I

### RNHS EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

DATE	PRESIDENT	SECRETARY-TREASURER
16 Jan 33	Fred Bradshaw	Edwin H.M.Knowles
17 Apr 33	E.H.M.Knowles	Fred Bard
19 Nov 34	Jack H.Taylor	Elizabeth B.Flock
16 Nov 36	Jack H.Taylor	Elizabeth B.Flock
19 Apr 37	Dick Bird	Rose Johnson
16 May 38	T.Wilfred Hunt	Wm. Shevkenek
17 Apr 39	T.Allen Cherry	Wm. Shevkenek
15 Apr 40	C.W.Johnson	Myrtle Hutton
5 May 41	Wm.E.Perkins	Clifford Shaw
20 Apr 42	L.T.Carmichael	Clifford Shaw
19 Apr 43	L.T.Carmichael	Marguerite H.Robinson
17 Apr 44	H.C.Andrews	J.Harry Flock
25 Apr 45	Jacob G.Rempel	J.Harry Flock
15 Apr 46	Roy Smith	Kathleen Burbridge
21 Apr 47	J.L.Buckley	Ruth McLintock

Office of Secretary-Treasurer divided. Treasurer is second listed name.

20 Oct 47	J.L.Buckley	Ruth McLintock Kathleen Burbridge
19 Apr 48	George Ledingham	Ruth McLintock Kathleen Burbridge
18 Apr 49	George Ledingham	Leonard Dreger Mrs.J.M.Crawford
17 Apr 50	Fred Robinson	Margaret Belcher Mrs.J.M.Crawford
16 Apr 51	Wm.A.Brownlee	Margaret Belcher Dora Bonser
21 Apr 52	Ernest L.Paynter	Margaret Belcher Dora Bonser
20 Apr 53	W.Arthur Benson	Marjorie Ledingham Herbert W.Stevenson
17 May 54	Frank Brazier	Marjorie Ledingham Herbert W.Stevenson
18 May 55	Frank Brazier	Marie Robinson Herbert W.Stevenson
14 May 56	Gordon W.Stewart	Marie Robinson Herbert W.Stevenson

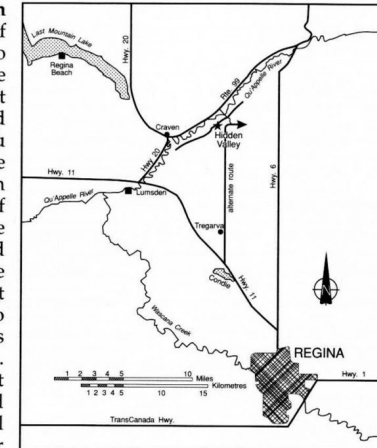
13 May 57	Gordon W.Stewart	Marion A.Goudie to Dec 57 Pearl Guest, acting Sec. Herbert W.Stevenson
26 May 58	Bruce Knox	Pearl Guest Sylvia Harrison
11 May 59	Bruce Knox	Pearl Guest Sylvia Harrison
16 May 60	Elmer Fox	Joyce Dew Sylvia Harrison
15 May 61	Tom Gentles	Joyce Dew to Jan 62 Jean McDaid, acting Sec. Elizabeth Parkin
21 May 62	Tom Gentles	Jean McDaid Joyce (Dew) Deutscher, acting Sec. Aug 62 Florence Hailstone, acting Sec. 15 Oct 62 Elizabeth Parkin (Treas.)
27 May 63	Herbert Moulding	Florence Hailstone Elizabeth Parkin
25 May 64	Chester S.Brown to Dec 64 Tom White from 31 Dec 64	Florence Hailstone Beth Smith
27 May 65	Tom White	Florence Hailstone Beth Smith
16 May 66	Ralph Cheesman	Florence Hailstone John L.M.Scott
15 May 67	Jack MacKenzie	Florence Hailstone John L.M.Scott
21 May 68	Bernard Haysom	Jean Richards, at 11 Jun 68 John L.M.Scott
19 May 69	James R.Jowsey	Jessie Bailey, at 2 Jun 69 Jean Scott
18 May 70	Evelyn Weisbrot	Jessie Bailey Jean Scott
17 May 71	Joseph Roberts	Jessie Bailey Ralph Cheesman
15 May 72	Gary Seib	Helen Morrison Lorne Scott
14 May 73	Gary Seib	Elizabeth McGregor Shirley Jowsey
13 May 74	W.Lloyd Hipperson	Norma Fisher Shirley Jowsey

12 May 75	Frank Switzer	Norma Fisher Shirley Jowsey
10 May 76	Frank Switzer	Valerie Harrison to Dec 76 Dale Hjertaas from Jan 77 Shirley Jowsey
16 May 77	George Ledingham	Joan Baron Shirley Jowsey
15 May 78	James R.Jowsey	Linda Langenbacher to Feb 79 Elizabeth McGregor, acting Shirley Jowsey
14 May 79	Valerie Harrison	Bradley J.Muir Shirley Jowsey
26 May 80	Valerie Harrison to 18 Jun 80 R.Weldon Moffat from 18 Jun 80	Bradley J.Muir Shirley Jowsey
11 May 81	R.Weldon Moffat to Jun 81 Frank Switzer from 9 Jun 81	Linda Langenbacher Stan Voyce
17 May 82	Paule Hjertaas	Kathleen Donauer Stan Voyce
16 May 83	Paule Hjertaas	Kathleen Donauer Bob Berthiaume
14 May 84	Paule Hjertaas	Margaret Hutchinson Bob Berthiaume
13 May 85	Sandra Ewart	Margaret Hutchinson Bob Berthiaume
12 May 86	Andrew Ferniuk to 5 Sept 86 Kathleen Donauer from Sept 86	Lucille Bradatsch Bob Berthiaume
11 May 87	Kathleen Donauer	Kathleen Ferguson Bob Berthiaume
May 88	Kathleen Donauer	Kathleen Ferguson Bob Berthiaume
16 May 89	Frank Switzer	Kathleen Ferguson Lucille Bradatsch
22 May 90	Phyllis Ilsley	Karen Scalise Debbie Miller Milow Worel

## APPENDIX II

### ROUTE TO HIDDEN VALLEY

**Fool-Proof Route to Hidden Valley:** Take Highway 11 out of Regina, heading north-west to Lumsden. When you get to the Qu'Appelle valley, turn right at the access to Highway 20 and drive on to Craven. As you approach Craven, watch for the sign for access to Route 99. Turn right (north) at the main street of Craven, which is flanked on one side by the Port Hymen Plaza and by the Craven Motor Inn on the other. At the first street intersection, turn right onto Tennant Street, which becomes Route 99 after you leave Craven. From that intersection (Tennant Street & Fraser Avenue), proceed 7.1 km at which point you will come to a cross road, on your right, that will take you to the south side of the valley. When you have crossed, the road splits off to the left, where you can see historic St.Nicholas' Anglican Church. To get to Hidden Valley, take the road that branches off to the right (west) and proceed 1.8 km to the Hidden Valley parking area. Get out and enjoy the valley!



Map courtesy of Bob Kreba

**Alternate Cross-Country Route to Hidden Valley:** Take Highway 11 out of Regina, and watch for the Condie and Tregarva turnoffs, which are 7.9 km from the intersection of Hwy.11 and Pasqua Street. Take the right turnoff to Tregarva, which goes north and intersects a paved road which runs east-west. After crossing, simply continue straight north on this gravel grid road. 2.7 km from the intersection, you will cross a set railroad tracks; during the spring the area to the north-east is flooded, and is known as Tregarva Slough. Tregarva itself is another kilometre

north. Continue driving north; you will cross two shallow coulees which connect to Flying Creek. You will reach the south-east corner of the Hidden Valley property 11.5 km from Tregarva; the property is fenced and there is a large sign. You can pull off here and explore the upland prairie and walk down into the valley, but there is no actual parking area or gate, so you will have to park carefully and climb over the fence, also carefully!

If you continue driving, the road makes a series of turns in quick succession (right-left-right), then makes another right turn. You will then be travelling east, and will quickly come to a yield sign at a T-intersection. Turn left (north) and descend to the valley below (you will see St. Nicholas' church on your right), where you will come to another yield sign and T-intersection. Turn left (west), and proceed for 1.8 km to the Hidden Valley parking area.



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