

and milk, and he showed a dislike for eggs. When he began flying he had the rule of the yard.

He would tease the cats, eat the chicken's feed and scare them, and when Dad milked he would sit on the cows' necks.

One day we built a tin tray where he placed his food. When the chickens took his food, he ruffed up his feathers and flew—cawing after the chickens, although he shared his food with the sparrows.

When strangers came he would fly at them and their car and because this never succeeded in scaring them, he flew away and stayed out of sight until they left.

In August, his mother came and tried to persuade him to go away from humans, but he solemnly refused. Then one night he got locked in with the chickens and got squeezed and ruffed up. I've never seen a bird show his feelings or converse so plainly as he did.

Shortly after this accident he left, although he visited us regularly. Before he went south he came back and cawed until Mom went out and when he circled around the pole and left. I'm sure he'll come back in the spring.

### STRIPED SQUIRREL

By Bonnie Frew, age 15, Pense, Sask.

My personal experience with wild life was with a striped squirrel more commonly known as a striped gopher. Although these animals are destructive they can sometimes be tamed with a lot of patience.

My first experience with a striped gopher happened at my aunt's. She had several striped gophers on her place. One became so used to me that he would not even run; that is, if I did not frighten him by a sudden move. One day I decided to try an experiment. I put a marshmallow on a long stick and held it out to the striped gopher. At first the striped gopher was very cautious but then he began to nibble at the marshmallow and then finally to eat it. I did not have any more experiences with this particular striped gopher because I had to leave for home the next day.

A few years later on our farm we had another striped gopher that got too tame as far as the chickens were concerned. One day our pet red rooster took after the striped gopher

and chased him to the gopher hole. It was really funny looking at the rooster with his neck stuck down the gopher hole trying to get the gopher and the way that rooster strutted across the yard when it found out it could not get the striped gopher.

So you see, you can have fun with wild life even though they are supposed to be so destructive.

### TWO DETERMINED TREE SWALLOWS

By Janice Bradshaw, age 11, Saltcoats, Sask.

Last spring we noticed two tree swallows sitting on the muffler of the little tractor which stood near the barn. My dad didn't use this tractor very often because he had a larger one. One day he wanted to go harrowing so he started the little tractor and out of the muffler flew twigs and grass. The tree swallows had started to make their nest in the muffler.

Just as my dad finished harrowing, the tractor ran out of gas so he walked home, leaving the tractor in the field about three quarters of a mile away. About three days later when he went for the tractor, twigs and grass flew out of the muffler again when he started it. He then noticed the swallows around. They must have followed the tractor out to the field.

When the tractor was back in the yard, we noticed the swallows began their work of building their nest in the muffler again. They were so determined to make their home in the muffler that my dad took off the muffler and placed it on the combine nearby. The nest was soon completed and eggs laid in it.

For the rest of the spring season the tractor was used without the muffler.

### AN ADVENTURE WITH A GARTER SNAKE

by Ed Andres, age 9, Rosithern, Sask.

One time in a town close to Swift Current a friend of mine and myself found some garter snakes. We played with them for a while. I had one in my hand. My friend put the snake he had around his neck. After we played with them we put them where we found them. They were very friendly.