THE BLUE JAY
81

ne, 1957

lid milk, and he showed a dislike
r eggs. When he began flying he
rule of the yard.
He would tease the cats, eat the
icken's feed and scare them, and
Dad milked he would sit on the
ows' necks.
One day we built a tin tray where
placed his food. When the
ickens took his food, he ruffed
feathers and flew—cawing
the chickens, although he shar-
his food with the sparrows.
When strangers came he would fly
them and their car and because
never succeeded in scaring them,
away and stayed out of
ight until they left.
In August, his mother came and
ried to persuade him to go away
rom humans, but he solemnly re-
ised. Then one night he got locked
m with the chickens and got squeeze-
d and ruffed up. I've never seen a
ird show his feelings or converse
plainly as he did.
Shortly after this accident he left,
ough he visited us regularly.
before he went south he came back
nd cawed until Mom went out and
pen he circled around the pole and
ft. I'm sure he'll come back in the
ing.

STRIPED SQUIRREL
by Bonnie Frew, age 15, Pense, Sask.

My personal experience with wild
life was with a striped squirrel more
ommonly known as a striped go-
h. Although these animals are
ductive they can sometimes be
amed with a lot of patience.
My first experience with a striped
er happened at my aunt's. She
had several striped gophers on her
ace. One became so used to me
at he would not even run; that is,
I did not frighten him by a sudden
ove. One day I decided to try an
periment. I put a marshmallow on
long stick and held it out to the
riped gopher. At first the striped
er was very cautious but then
began to nibble at the marshmal-
and then finally to eat it. I did
not have any more experiences with
is particular striped gopher because
ad to leave for home the next day.
A few years later on our farm we
had another striped gopher that got
to tame as far as the chickens were
cerned. One day our pet red
oster took after the striped gopher
and chased him to the gopher hole.
It was really funny looking at the
oster with his neck stuck down the
gopher hole trying to get the gopher
and the way that rooster strutted
cross 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 sup-
posed 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
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 harrow-
ing, the tractor ran out of gas so he
walked home, leaving the tractor in
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 de-
termined to make their home in the
muffler that my dad took off the
muffler and placed it on the com-
bine nearby. The nest was soon com-
pleted 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, Rosthern, 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.