

pheasants is May 6. What else is going on at that time? Records show spring grain well up, the Franklin Ground Squirrel has emerged, blue grass will head out in eight days, Sugar Maple, Chokecherry and other plants are in first bloom. In a year when the season is advanced, the same game manager may start looking for eggs when the other phenomena mentioned were observed.

Part of the terrain for which data was gathered in Winconsin was prairie, so the table showing the first blooming of prairie plants is of interest to us. The following dates are given for familiar plants: Pasque Flower (April 10); Hoary Puccoon (May 2); Shooting Star (May 16); Lilac-flowered Beard-tongue (June 14). It is interesting to compare these dates with the following supplied by Mr. Lloyd Carmichael, Regina: Pasque Flower (April 8); Hoary Puccoon (May 6); Shooting Star (June 4); Lilac-flowered Beard-tongue

(June 18). A chart prepared by Arch. C. Budd giving the flowering sequence of spring plants may be found in the March 1957 *Blue Jay*.

For those who are keeping records of first appearances, R. Glendenning has some useful suggestions. Plant records kept should be of cultivated plants that are successfully grown in your area, or of native plants growing in a location where they are unlikely to be destroyed, such as on wild land or roadsides. It is important that records be kept for the same location each year. Frogs croaking should be recorded from the same swamp, and birds from the same farm or similar area. Records kept in this way from year to year have significant comparative value. When they have been kept for many years, these records are also interesting to other people keeping similar records. A comparison of such long-term records would make a worthwhile study for the *Blue Jay*.

Mammal Notes

Skunk Attacked by Badger

by Joyce Gunn, Spirit Lake, Sask.

At sunset on January 7 Mother and I were walking towards home along a well-packed road when we saw just ahead of us a skunk hurrying south in our direction. We decided discretion was the better part of valour and stepped off into the snow to give the skunk the right of way! It paused only momentarily to look at us then continued southward at a skunk gallop.

As we stepped back on to the road we saw the reason for the half-grown skunk's haste. It was being chased along the road by a badger. The badger stopped, however, when he saw us and turned back north. We followed him for about 100 yards before he turned off into the bush, bleeding profusely from one of his front paws. He wasn't much larger than the skunk. Watching the scene from a poplar near the road was a

great horned owl that flew just as we saw the badger coming.

A few yards north of where the badger turned off we came to a spot that reeked of skunk, and then about fifty yards further on we came to the battle area. Skunk and badger must have gone at it tooth and nail, for the hard-packed snow was blood-stained and discoloured and there were claw marks around. Closer to home we saw where the skunk had come out of the bush, and farther on, the badger. Apparently the badger had been wounded before tackling the skunk as there were faint blood stains on his trail before he got to the road.

Two days later I heard that the skunk was killed by a dog a half mile south of where we had met it and only ten minutes later—so he was really making time! People also remarked on the fact that the skunk seemed to be wounded. No doubt he was exhausted after his run, to say nothing of his fight with the badger.