

# Stomach Contents of Great Horned Owls

by Robert J. Connell, University of Saskatchewan

Back on our own plains the first week in April we saw lots of Whistling Swans and ducks, mostly in the Bassano area. The swans were mostly in the small ponds because the larger bodies of water were still covered with ice. At Maple Creek Junction the Horned Larks were feeding by the road, and the first bird to greet us in Regina was a crow.

Residue on the screen was gently washed in a stream of tap water. When clean, the residue on the screen was washed into a flat-bottomed, clear glass dish. After settling, excess water was poured off, and the residue transferred to petri dishes for examination under the dissecting microscope.

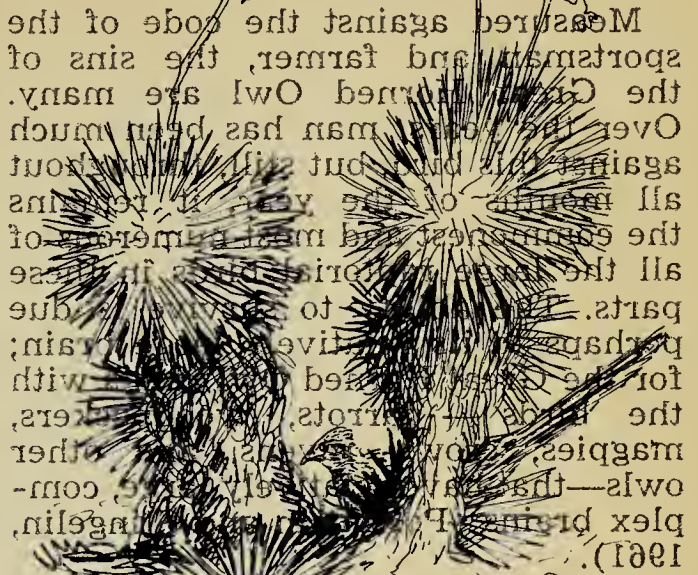
Identification of small mammalian remains is not difficult when skulls and teeth are present, provided the worker has acquired a knowledge of skull and teeth characteristics in the different native species of small mammals. To facilitate making the identifications, we first prepared a key to the skulls and teeth of small mammals in Saskatchewan. Specific identification of bird remains is more difficult, but usually possible. Feasible and mites were used as aids.

## Bald Eagle Harries Nesting Canada Geese

by F. W. Lahrman, Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History

On April 10, 1962, I saw an eagle soaring over the marshes of the Regina Waterfowl Park and coming to land on one of the mounds of the dugout. There I could identify it as an immature Bald Eagle. Two days later, on April 12, I again noted the eagle at the marsh. When I first saw it it was soaring high in the sky; then it began to circle down toward the nest of a Canada Goose on a muskrat house in the marsh. I wondered how the pair of geese would react, so I turned to look at them. I could see that the geese were nervous—the goose on the nest had her neck stretched out flat, and the gander on a dyke approximately 100 yards away was also crouching flat with outstretched neck.

As the eagle drew closer, the goose slipped off the nest, calling to the gander. The eagle swooped at the goose which dived under water and then it hovered over the water wait-



Great Horned Owl, El Paso, Roadrunner

The owl specimens received by the Veterinary Laboratory were examined for any and all scientific data. The owl specimens were examined in the Veterinary Science Department at the University of Saskatchewan. Most of the specimens secured were collected by Mr. Keith True, Manager, Provincial Game Farm, Beaver Creek, Saskatchewan. In the winters of 1958-59 and 1959-60 the birds were numerous in the vicinity of the Game Farm, apparently attracted to the area by the game farm bird stock. In the winter of 1960-61 the owls were scarce and only 10 specimens

ing for the goose to reappear. The alerted gander came flying swiftly to her rescue. It flew directly at the eagle, and the surprised eagle turned aside to escape attack. Apparently the gander struck at the eagle with its wing, but I couldn't see whether it actually hit the eagle. Then it flew, circled and attempted a second attack, but the eagle escaped by climbing swiftly into the air. After flying some distance the eagle came down to land on the ice. It sat there for a few minutes, and then flew up again to go to another nest. Here too, the goose slipped off the nest, and she and the gander standing beside the nest both stood with outstretched wings, honking loudly. The eagle flew off, soared into the air, and away. What was presumably the same bird was noted briefly the following day soaring over the marsh, but it was not seen again molesting the geese.