
LETTERS

OWLS

Last spring I reported having observed a Screech Owl on our farm near Southey, Saskatchewan (Nature Notes from Southey, *Blue Jay* 43(3):201). On 16 December 1985 about 11:00 a.m., we found an owl perched on top of a birchhouse in the corner of our back yard in Southey. The house is on top of a post about 12 ft. high. It was watching for a meal, I suppose, in the field adjacent to our yard and it sat there for quite some time. I was able to get a good look at it from our window and did take a picture of it. The vertical bars on its upper breast and the horizontal bars on its underparts and the lack of ear tufts convinced me that it was a Barred Owl. Why was it so far away from its usual habitat of wooded ravines? I believe this owl is also scarce and usually found in the northeast part of the Province. — *Gertrude B. Hillier*, Box 351, Southey, Saskatchewan. S0G 4P0

COLLECTING PALAEO- TOLOGICAL SPECIMENS

In 1984 I wrote an article on the legality of fossil collecting in Saskatchewan published in *Blue Jay* (Tokaryk, Tim. 1984. Collecting vertebrate palaeontological specimens in Saskatchewan. *Blue Jay* 42(2):75-76, and Tokaryk, Tim. 1985. Correction to collecting vertebrate palaeontological specimens in Saskatchewan. *Blue Jay* 43(2):127). Since then I have received some comments about the article which I would like to clarify.

Near the end of the article, I used the word 'pillaged' in reference to the collecting of fossils in Canada by foreign institutions after the turn of the century. I

regret using this word because if it were not for the American museums taking interest in our fossil beds, it might have been much longer before we realised the potential of collecting fossils, mainly in western Canada.

The point I was trying to make was that I, personally, felt that it had taken the Canadian government too long to realise this potential.

I apologise to everyone I might have offended, especially my American colleagues. — *Tim T. Tokaryk*, Earth Sciences Program, Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History, Regina, Saskatchewan. S4P 3V7

HUMMINGBIRDS — SAPSUCKERS

This photograph was taken a matter of weeks before the September 1985 *Blue Jay* arrived with an article on cooperation between sapsuckers and hummingbirds. During the summer my firm was involved in a highway surfacing project north of Maidstone, Saskatchewan. We had a site trailer set up in the shelterbelt-surrounded yard of the C & S Groceries about 20 km north of town. Several times in late August I was there for the day and noticed both species outside the trailer window, and on 15 August 1985, I snapped the picture which shows the sapsucker on the tree and the hummingbird buzzing in front of it. The sapsucker apparently visited the trees in the shelterbelt daily to eat bugs stuck to the sap, and the hummingbird followed it around, feeding on the fresh sap. The hummingbird would move in close to the sapsucker for a minute or two, feed, then retreat to a perch for a few minutes. The