

LOCKED HORNS INDICATE STRUGGLE

C. C. Shaw, Yorkton



Grim evidence of one of nature's battles for survival and supremacy are these locked horns. Holding them is Jack Shaver, conservation officer at Yorkton and Vice-President of our Society.

Mr. Shaver said the two deers were found in the Beaver Hills community pasture, 35 miles west of Yorkton, by John Loeppky, pasture manager. About an acre of grass and snow, heavily tramped down by the hoofs of the deer, indicated the struggle that had waged in an endeavour to free themselves.

When found, the youngest buck had been dead for some time and the body fed on by coyotes. The other had been dead only a few hours and its body had not been touched.

Mr. Shaver said at the time the discover was made, Joe Burfitt, a coyote hunter for the Department of Natural Resources, was in the area placing coyote bait for control measures.

Weasels, Squirrels and Racoons

Ronald Hooper, Somme

One day during the winter I tried squeaking like a mouse to attract a weasel. Sure enough—he ran around my feet and looked under all the nearby sticks for the would-be mouse. Once, when I did this, he **did** come out with a mouse.

In a similar way I once imitated baby birds' peeping to attract a Red Squirrel. The frisky fellow gave a jerk of his tail and scampered to a large grass nest which had fallen from a tree, and energetically searched it again and again. Then he came a little closer and picked up a small object from the ground, nibbled at it, and then carried it to a stump, not a foot from me. He went up the stump and, leaving the object on top of it, descended and went his merry way through the forest. I looked at the object and found that it was a toadstool, which was full of insect

holes. I wonder if he was eating insects or actually eating the toadstool. If so, what a variation from his more common winter diet of spruce cones.

One time, two summers ago, I saw a Red Squirrel eating a half-grown White-throated Sparrow, while the parent birds scolded piteously. He had started with the head and had peeled the skin back as he went until it was half eaten.

Racoons occasionally occur in the Somme vicinity. A friend of mine who lives north of Carragana, shot one two years ago last fall. A man from Endeavour claims to have seen one last fall. My sister saw one about five years ago.

(Readers of the last issue of the "Blue Jay" may get the impression that Racoons are found only east of Estevan in Saskatchewan. This is an error. The sentence in question should have read: "As far as we know they are most prevalent in the Souris watershed, east of Estevan.")