

the tapeworm in its embryo stage can be so lethal to its temporary host. Is the mortality in fact due to the tapeworm or to some other cause?
— H. M. R., Ituna.

Answer: The watery blisters are probably cysts of the dog tapeworm *Cysticercus pisiformis*). These blisters or white shiny bladders which are found among the intestines or embedded in the liver, are the larvae of the tapeworm. Rabbits may pick up the eggs of the tapeworm, on vegetation which has been contaminated by the feces of dogs or coyotes infected with the tapeworms. The eggs hatch into tiny larvae in the digestive tract of the rabbit. The tiny larvae then make their way through the walls of the intestine and remain in the resting state which is recognized as the "blister". To

complete the life cycle of the tapeworm the raw flesh of the rabbit containing the cysts must be eaten by a member of the dog family. The larvae then develop into adult tapeworms in the intestine of the dog, eggs are produced and the cycle begins again. In contrast to the intermediate host the terminal host (e.g. dog, coyote) will likely become thin and unthrifty. Treatment can be given to dogs to rid them of these parasites.

Although it is commonly believed that the "blisters" in rabbits are responsible for "crash" declines in rabbit populations, this parasite has little or no effect on their mortality. Other diseases or parasites may affect rabbits, however. Tularemia, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, tick-induced anemia, "shock disease", may contribute to an increased mortality rate in rabbit populations. — T.A.H.

S.N.H.S. CHRISTMAS CARDS

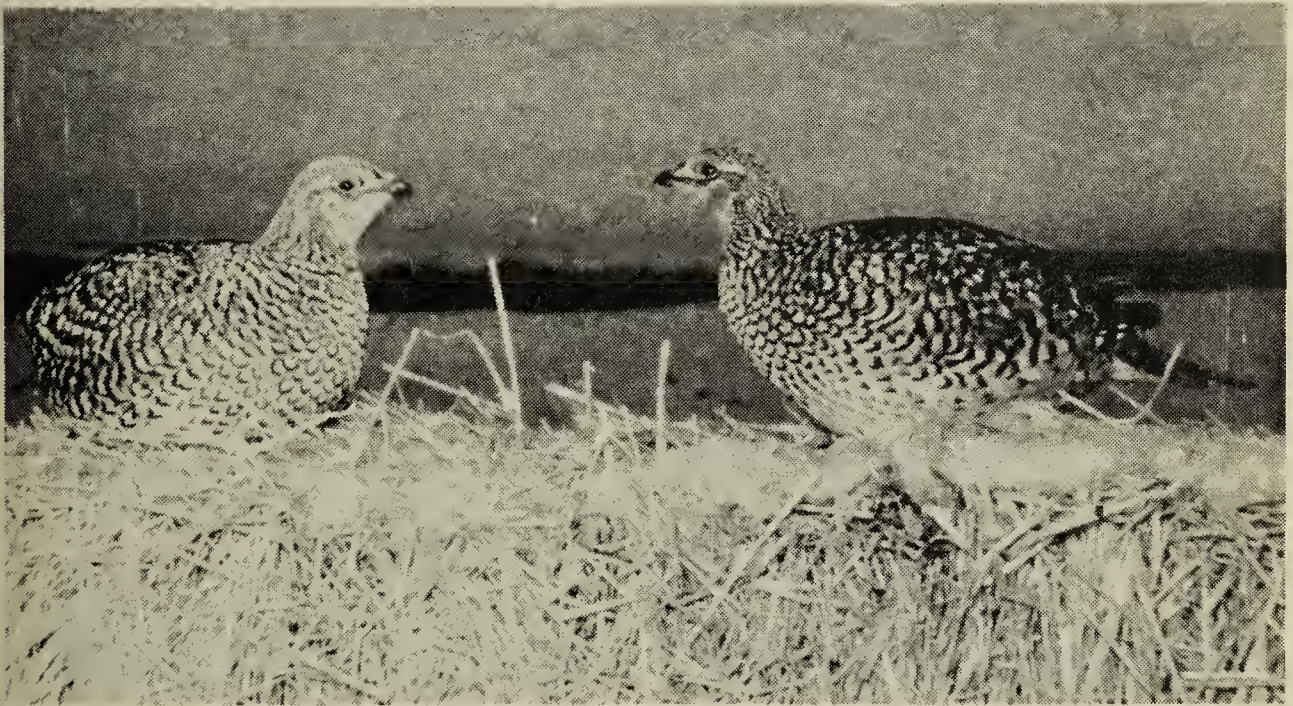


Photo by Doug Gilroy

A coloured reproduction of this monochrome photo of Sharp-tailed Grouse, by Doug Gilroy, is being used this year for S.N.H.S. Christmas cards. The card will be about 4"x5" and of the folder type. Price: \$1.25 per dozen.

We expect the cards to be available in time for the Annual Meeting.

They may be obtained from the following persons:

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Mrs. John Gerrard, 809 Colony Street, Saskatoon, Sask.

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