

Some Recent Mammal Records

by **R. W. Nero**, Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History

The Museum regularly receives a variety of animals submitted for identification from readers of the **Blue Jay** and the general public. All of these specimens provide valuable distribution data and are processed accordingly. A few recent mammal records, however, warrant special attention.

Pygmy Shrew (*Microsorex hoyi*)—two specimens, both captured in a cesspool at Naicam, Sask., on July 23, 1959, by **Mrs J. Missler**. Only half-a-dozen records are available for the province.

Small-footed Myotis (*Myotis subulatus*)—the second specimen for the province was collected on June 27, 1959, in the South Saskatchewan River Valley north of Main Centre by **A. Swanston** and **B. McCorquodale** who also found the first specimen (see **Blue Jay**, Dec., 1958). This specimen was found alive lying on the bare ground in a gully in a sandy outcrop after a rain.

Red Bat (*Lasiurus borealis*)—a male specimen sent in from Tullis, Sask., on Sept. 21, 1959, by **Mrs. E. Barager**, provides a new locality record.

Hoary Bat (*Lasiurus cinereus*)—a female with half-grown young was collected at Yorkton by **Dr. S. Houston** on July 19, 1959. (For information on other breeding data see **Blue Jay**, Sept., 1958).

Gray Squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*)—two previously unreported records; a pelt of an adult received from **J. Provick**, caught in a mink trap near Esterhazy, Sask., in January, 1958, and an adult female specimen received which was shot near granaries at Edenwold on March 11, 1959, by **G. Markel**. These are both new locality records.

Olive-backed Pocket Mouse (*Perognathus fasciatus*)—Specimens are on hand from four new localities in Sask.; one at Boharm, May 13, 1959, taken by **A. Swanston**; one from Gainsborough, May 25, 1959, by **J. Reynolds**; one from S. Sask. River valley north of Main Centre, on July 7, 1959, by **R. Nero**; and one from McCord, Sept. 22, 1959, by **E. Kuyt**. An additional series of 14 was collected in two hours at night on Sept. 17, 1959, about 7 miles west of Hatfield in a previously reported locality.

The pocket mouse which was collected at McCord was a female which had a greatly enlarged and discolored liver. It was submitted to Dr. H. O. Dillinger, bacteriologist at the Provincial Health Laboratory, Regina, who made the following diagnosis: the cause of the liver swelling and the yellow patches has been ascertained as *Capillaria hepatica*, a whipworm. This parasite is a

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Northern Records of the Woodchuck

by **Peter Gregg**, La Ronge

Beck's Guide to the Mammals of Sask., (see **Blue Jay**, March, 1959, for review) records the Woodchuck (*Marmota monax*) in Prince Albert National Park, but has no records of this mammal occurring further north. Since moving to La Ronge this past summer I have seen them along Highway No. 2 from roughly Mile 80 (22 miles south of La Ronge) to the vicinity of the Potato Lakes at Mile 95 (about 7 miles south of La Ronge). The road mileage system starts with Mile 0 at Waskesiu and terminates at La Ronge which is about Mile 102. The mileage numbering on the Uranium City Road, of which 25 miles are now complete.

starts at La Ronge with Mile 0 all over again.

In the area frequented by the woodchucks there are quite a few sandy banks where I suspect they have their burrows. I have looked at one road kill in July along the extent of road mentioned and on various trips have seen a total of 8 or 10 woodchucks along the roadside.

ED. NOTE: Dr. Gregg, formerly with the Dept. of Nat. Resources, is now working as a free-lance writer and has just recently moved to La Ronge. He holds a Ph.D. degree in conservation from Cornell University and is strongly interested in wilderness areas and life out-of-doors. We wish him lots of luck and hope to hear more from him about the La Ronge area.