

Mammal Notes

Beavers Do Cut Down Big Trees

By F. H. Gummerson, Flin Flon, Man.



The accompanying pictures were taken about ten years ago but I thought they might be of interest to show that beavers do cut down big trees. This tree, still standing in the first picture which was taken in October, is 22 inches in diameter. The second picture was taken on June 1 of the following year. Notice that the bark has been removed all the way from where the boy sits to the top of the tree. All the branches and at least twelve feet of the top of the tree have been removed and carried away. These pictures were taken along Mystic Creek at Wekach Lake in Saskatchewan.



Raccoons in Saskatchewan

By C. Stuart Francis, Torch River

Since there have been several reports of the Raccoon in the **Blue Jay** I would like to report its presence in this part of Saskatchewan. About ten years ago I saw a dead Raccoon in a Fur Buyer's Store in Nipawin. It had been killed by a farmer only a couple of miles from town. On October 20, 1958, a Raccoon visited our farm one night leaving footprints which were plainly visible in the mud between our two dugouts. The late Dr. H. S. Swallow of Yorkton, in his Nature Column, mentioned the Raccoon as being present in the Yorkton area last summer.

I believe that the Raccoon is widely distributed and perhaps that it is on the increase in all areas of Saskatchewan. The following figures taken from the Department of Natural Resources Annual Reports give the number of Raccoon pelts from 1950-1957 inclusive: 1950, 8; 1951, 23; 1952, 18; 1953, 9; 1954, 17; 1955, 27; 1956, 54; 1957, 21; a total of 177 Raccoons in 8 years.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Mr. H. Lansdell, of Yellow Grass, reports that he saw a Raccoon in August, 1955. It had been found under a granary by Mr. L. McAlister. He says, "The black mask proved beyond doubt that it was a Raccoon."

Short-tailed Shrew at Wauchope

H. H. PITTMAN, Wauchope, Saskatchewan

Sending in for my copy of W. H. Beck's *A Guide to Saskatchewan Mammals*, I am reminded that I photographed a Short-tailed Shrew (*Blarina brevicauda*) in this district several years ago. They are apparently very rare but they show up occasionally.

Editor's Note: This record does add an important dot to the map on page 10 of our first special publication.