

## Mammal Notes

**WATER SHREW AT HUDSON BAY.**—Mr. E. Kuyt, Ecologist, Wildlife Branch, Department of Natural Resources, collected a Water Shrew (*Sorex palustris*) on June 3, 1959, on a beaver dam about 12 miles east of Hudson Bay, Saskatchewan. Verification of the identity of this rare shrew was made at the Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History. This is the first specimen reported in Saskatchewan south of the Saskatchewan River. Beck's **A Guide to Saskatchewan Mammals**, Spec. Publ. #1, S.N.H.S., 1958, cites records for Prince Albert National Park and Wollaston Lake.—R.W.N.

**CANINE TEETH IN WHITE-TAILED DEER.**—How many teeth has a deer? To be brief, its usual dental formula adds up to 32. However, at rather rare times this

normal number may be upped to 34 by the addition to two small canine teeth in the upper jaw, similar to the dentition of the Elk and Caribou. It has been my fortune as a taxidermist to have two heads fetched in to mount having these odd teeth, both White-tailed Deer; the first shot at Minton in 1952, the second one taken at Whitewood last fall (1958). I hope hunters reading this article will check their deer and see whether any with similar canines, or even upper incisors, can be found and sent in for study purposes.

According to Dr. R. W. Nero, of the Provincial Museum, an article in the *Journal of Wildlife Management*, "reported upper canines in 23 of 28,000 White-tailed Deer; in one study only two of 4,000 Mule Deer had upper canines." — Elizabeth Barker, Regina.

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## The Painted Turtle in Saskatchewan

by Charles D. Bird, Kings Park, Manitoba.

In recent years I have been very interested in the distribution of the Western Painted Turtles (*Chrysemys picta bellii*) in central Canada. This resulted in the appearance of a rather detailed account of the Manitoba distribution in an article published in the *Canadian Field-Naturalist* in 1958. Since then my attention was drawn to Saskatchewan when, on July 11, 1958, while inspecting the Gouverneur Dam, one mile west of Gouverneur and forty miles south-southwest of Swift Current, I was very surprised to see an adult Painted Turtle. The animal was sunning on a rock in shallow water below the dam and allowed me to come within 15 yards and make positive identification with field glasses.

I have not seen any previous records of the turtles from this region. If the stream had been connecting with the Missouri, Souris, or Qu'Appelle systems an explanation might be found but the stream was Notukeu Creek which flows into Wood River and then into Old Wives Lake. At the time I thought that this was simply a case of the liberation of a pet collected somewhere to the east, but this thought does not seem

sound now as during a trip to the area this summer the local P.F.R.A. Supervisor mentioned sightings of several turtles in the same area and spoke of more turtles from the same creek near the town of Cadillac.

Correspondence with W. H. Beck, Saskatoon, revealed that to his knowledge the turtles were recorded only from the Qu'Appelle river system in Saskatchewan. My investigations strongly suggest that they may be found in the Souris River system as well but I have seen no records to support this impression. I am wondering if any of the **Blue Jay** readers have made any other observations?

Two turtles, the Painted and the Snapping, should be found in Saskatchewan. The Painted Turtle reaches a length of six to eight inches, it has an olive drab back and an underside that is brightly colored with reds and yellows. This turtle will frequently be found sunning itself on rocks or logs in the shallow water of a warm quiet stream or pond. The Snapping Turtle can attain a much larger size, has a drab back and undersides, a thick muscular neck, heavy jaws, and seldom is found sunning itself.