

Wolves reported in the Val Marie district

by **J. David Chandler**, Shaunavon

Recently there have been several reports of wolves being in the Val Marie district. On July 26, 1964, Gordon Chandler, driving across country less than a mile from the home corals, saw an animal which he took to be a wolf start out from a stand of grain in a reclaimed slough bottom. He said it loped off for the hills, its body stretched out in long leaps, but stopped to look back several times. It was reported as much too large and dark to be confused with a coyote. About two hours later I tried to track it, circling a four mile area. We were remarkably fortunate in catching the briefest glimpse, but at quite a distance, as it slipped around a knoll, heading for a grain field. Although we were unable to flush it again, we found some interesting tracks in another part of the field, rather indistinct, but presumably those of the wolf. They were running parallel to, and in the same direction as the tracks of what appeared to be a cow and a calf. We followed the tracks to a place where the grain was somewhat

trampled; whether the cow paused to graze, or to take a stance of defense we weren't experienced enough at tracking even to surmise. The prints of the animal measured approximately nine inches from the outer edge of the right print to the outer of the left (when the two prints were opposite each other).

Early in the spring of 1964, I started what, at first, appeared to be a coyote. When I raised my binoculars it appeared too large for this species, and, unlike a coyote, it retreated slowly, looking backward as it went, and I guessed that it was a wolf. It was at this approximate date that Sidney Chandler and F. Kornfeld (adjacent rancher) found the well-eaten carcasses of three calves.

Wolves were also reported in the fall of 1963: Bill Hanson, of Orkney, reported pursuing one for some distance in a pick-up truck. And another one was reported seen between Orkney and Val Marie by a lady who has lived in the north and who says she knows a wolf when she sees one.

Lynx at Edenwold

by **Robert W. Nero**, Regina

Evidence of the persistence of the lynx (*Lynx canadensis*) in southern Saskatchewan (See *Blue Jay*, 22:35-36, 84-86, 120) was obtained when a female was shot by deer hunters at Edenwold on November 11, 1964. According to our informant, John H. Mulhern, student at the Regina Campus, when he and his friends returned to a deer which had been shot and dressed and left lying on the ground for several hours in this parkland area, they found a lynx crouched over the carcass. It had already eaten the tail and most of the hindquarters of the deer. It seemed unusually fearless and

was easily dispatched. Identification of the specimen was made on November 12.

It is unfortunate that wild animals not specifically designated as protected should be killed for no particular reason. Doubtless the lynx will not long remain an element of the parkland and prairie fauna, being far out of its customary range, and the killing of these wanderers from the north will not affect the northern population. However, one would like to urge hunters to learn to enjoy wild animals without necessarily destroying them.