

MAMMAL NOTES

A SECOND RECORD OF THE LONG-EARED MYOTIS BAT

by Robert W. Nero, Regina

A Long-eared Myotis (*Myotis evotis*) was found by Clarence Ritter, (Regina) on May 26, 1963, in extreme southern Saskatchewan. It was found resting beneath a slab of rock on an open eroded hillside in the valley of the Big Muddy River, west of Highway No. 34, and about 10 miles south of Bengough. The specimen is a female, with measurements close to that of the only other known provincial specimen, which was reported in 1960 (*Blue Jay*, 18:181). This second record provides further evidence of the distribution of this species throughout the arid southwestern portion of Saskatchewan. We are indebted to Mr. Ritter for bringing the specimen to our attention.

BEAR AND WOLVERINE NEAR BEECHY, SASKATCHEWAN

by Dave Santy, Beechy

Between four and five o'clock on the morning of May 17, 1963, the vigorous barking of the dog aroused the family at the farm home of Mr. Eric Tuplin four miles south of Beechy. The bedroom window of mid-teen daughter, Joyce, overlooks the lane and there she saw the dog attacking a black bear. The intruder was reluctant to give way but under pressure from the dog he left the farm. Joyce had seen bears before on vacation trips and is satisfied that she identified the animal correctly.

A few days later Leonard Rice who farms four miles east by south from the Tuplin farm was making the first round of a big acreage field with tractor and seeder equipment. Following the contour of a wide ravine he noted a movement in a clump of buckbrush and saw a bear rise and slowly thresh its way through the tangle of growth. Leonard was within ten feet of the bear when he stopped the tractor. The animal reached a grassy clearing, looked back, then ambled slowly to the bottom of the coulee, and the shelter of shrubs and trees.

Leonard left the machinery and ran the goodly distance home for a rifle and a truck. He sought the help

and companionship of Bill Peters, two miles distant, and then went back to the coulee. They saw the bear's resting place and his tracks through the buckbrush and with rifles at the ready they searched the coulee till it merged with the Snakebite coulee which is over a mile wide. The bear had evaded them.

Lest some of our readers are not well versed in geography I might add that a bear in the Beechy district is as much a stranger as it would be on Scarth Street, Regina.

By coincidence, on the same date, May 17, Merlin Hungerford of Eston shot and killed a wolverine at his farm seven miles southeast of Eston, some 50 miles west of Beechy. When I talked with Merlin and his father on June 1 the wolverine hide was in the curing vat in the preliminary process of being mounted as a trophy.

THE LARDER OF A RED FOX

by J. David Chandler, Shaunavon

A Red Fox den containing a litter of seven pups was dug up six miles south of Shaunavon. The size and variety of their larder is quite revealing. The contents of the larder consisted of the following entire or partly eaten animals: pheasant, (banded), red-winged blackbird, rats, jack rabbits, mice, weasel, meadowlarks, mallards pintails, antelope leg, duck eggs, a wading bird, partridge.

WILDLIFE-PESTICIDE RESEARCH

Congratulations to the U.S. Department of the Interior which opened a new wildlife-pesticide research laboratory in April, 1963, at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Centre in Maryland "dedicated to Man - toward his future on this planet." It is the first U.S. federal installation built specifically for wildlife pesticide studies. "The work done here may prevent or halt the spread of 'silent wings' that stalk the earth," said Secretary Udall who opened the laboratory. The new laboratory will find out "what we are doing to our total environment by spreading millions of pounds of deadly chemicals over the land."