

heights of four feet or higher. Male *L. quadrimaculata* are territorial, spend an average of 90.5 per cent of their time perching and rarely fly higher than three feet (Connor, 1968). Despite differences in appearance, flight ranges and behaviour, however, there are apparently enough general similarities between the two species to provoke occasional interactions. Miller (1967) has even observed a male *A. interrupta* attempting to couple with a Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilocus colubris*).

Studies of dragonflies are frequently complicated by the difficulty of resolving behaviour into sexual and aggressive components. In this interaction both sexual and predatory responses by the *Aeshna interrupta* seemed fairly evident. Furthermore, the interaction is consistent with the finding of Pajunen (1962) and others that in a single encounter between two male dragonflies both sexual and aggressive behaviour may be displayed.

On the subject of dragonflies eating other dragonflies Moore (1960) has noted that although the initial response of the attacker may be either aggressive or sexual, once the attacker's mouthparts come in contact with the other individual, the latter may be eaten essentially by accident. At Emma Lake *Aeshna interrupta* were seen to capture and devour *Symptetrum danae* but these dragonflies, most probably because of their small size, were never contacted sexually.

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SHORT-TAILED SHREW AT NIPAWIN

by L. S. Riome, Nipawin

April 21, 1968 was a raw windy day. The temperature at noon was 33° above zero, the ice on the Saskatchewan River was still intact, snow was deep in the forest while the north and east river and ravine banks had begun to succumb to the penetrating spring sun and show patches of expectant black earth. On such a leaf-strewn spot an expired Short-tailed Shrew (*Blarina brevicauda manitobensis*) was found. The location was NW 14-51-14 W2 — which subsequently became known as the "Beaver Dam" area to those who participated in the 1968 Summer Meeting of the Saskatchewan Natural History Society at Nipawin.

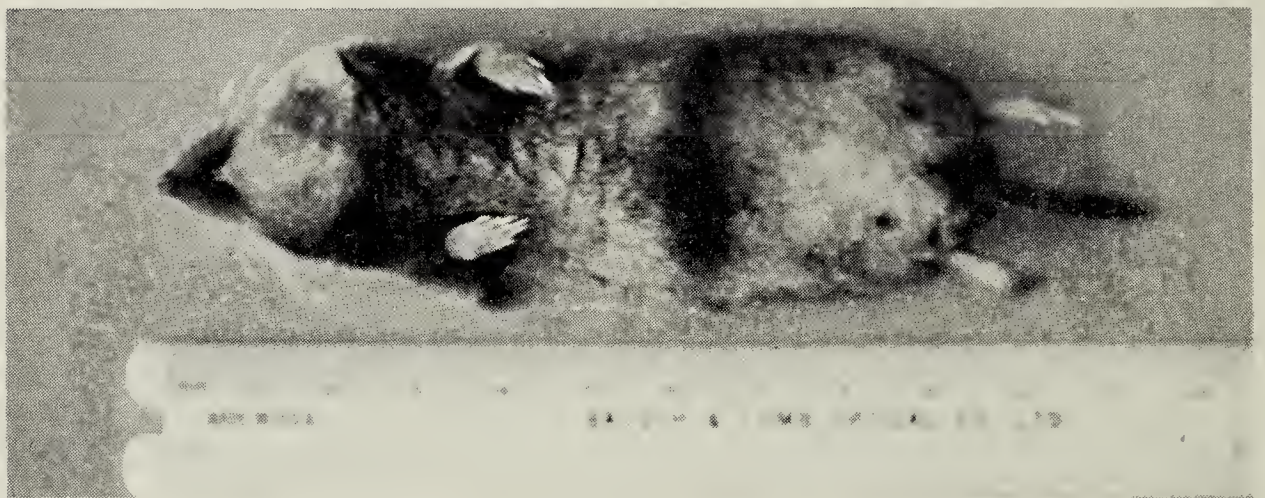
The animal appeared to be in perfect condition. No signs of external injury were visible. Whether it died of natural causes or had been killed by an enemy was not known. The general shape was that of a stocky

mouse with a tapered snout and a short tail. Its incredibly soft, silky fur gave off a variable grey lustre when stroked in strong light. Two very formidable, black-tipped upper incisors protruded under the flexible, sensitive snout giving a buck-toothed appearance. A profusion of long whiskers curved posteriorly. The ears were concealed and the tiny eyes beady. The feet were pinkish with five slender toes terminated by sharp nails. The tail was tipped with a brush of hairs indicating that the animal was young, for as a shrew ages, the hair is worn off leaving the tip eventually hairless.

The specimen, a female, had the following measurements: body 94 mm; tail 24 mm; total length 118 mm; hind foot 14 mm; weight 18 grams. It is now in the collections of the Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History, Regina.



Dorsal view of Short-tailed Shrew, April 21, 1968



Ventral view of Short-tailed Shrew.

Photo by S. D. Riome

A survey of the literature reveals a limited reporting of this species in Saskatchewan. The distribution map is based on these published records (Beck, 1958; Soper, 1961; *Blue Jay*, 15:221; 17:30; 18:42; 19:55; 26:166) and a specimen from Hazel Cliffe (pers. corres., W. H. Beck). There is also a Manitoba record for Le Pas (Krivda, 1957). The Nipawin record falls in a line between the Keatley and the Le Pas records and is taken as the northern limit of the species shown in the shaded area of the map which represents its probable range. Actual locality records are indicated by dots.

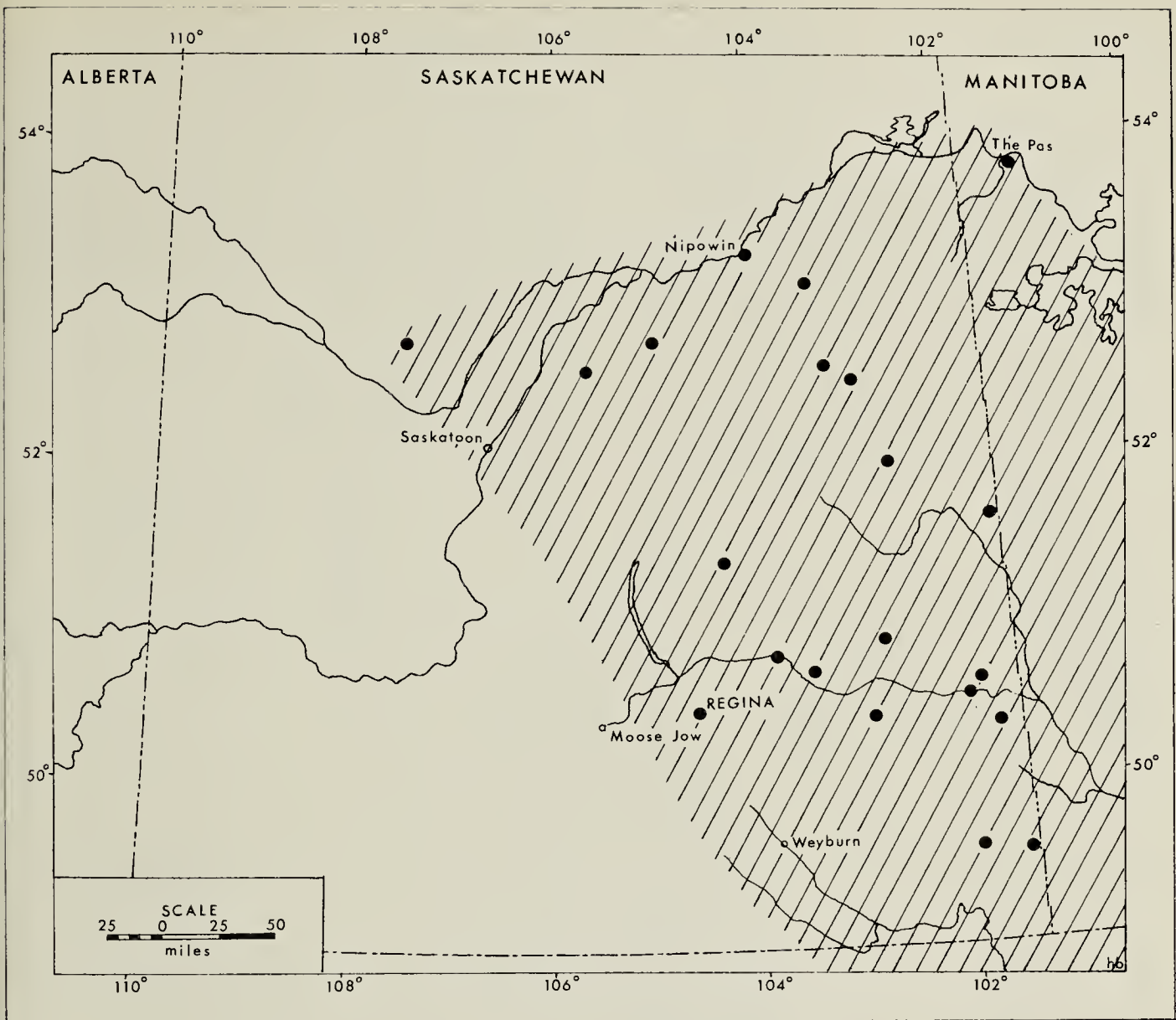
Mr. F. G. Bard, Director of the Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History at Regina or Mr. Harvey Beck, Curator of Mammals at the Manitoba Museum of Nature and Man

at Winnipeg, would be pleased to receive specimens within and without the present known range. Such specimens would aid in advancing the knowledge of the species.

The writer is indebted to Mr. W. H. Beck for assuring the accuracy of the report, reviewing the literature and preparing the distribution map.

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The distribution of the Short-tailed Shrew in Saskatchewan.

THE EXTENSION OF THE WESTERN SMOOTH GREEN SNAKE INTO SOUTH CENTRAL SASKATCHEWAN

by **Dianne M. Secoy**, University of Saskatchewan, Regina

On September 29, 1968, on a field trip to the badlands of Big Muddy Lake, we took a specimen of the Western Smooth Green Snake (*Opheodrys v. vernalis* Harlan). The snake was found in the grass in the bottom of one of the small valleys of the badlands to the south of Big Muddy Lake. At this time a specimen of *Pituophis melanoleucas sayi* was also taken.

The Western Smooth Green Snake has been reported previously only

from the Qu'Appelle Valley and the region around North Portal in the southeastern portion of the province. This specimen was taken approximately 100 miles west of the North Portal area and 125 miles southwest of the Qu'Appelle Valley. However, since it was taken in prairie, the westward extension of the range constitutes no change in ecological habitat and may simply reflect a lack of extensive herpetological collecting.