

National Museum verified my identification. The two piles of droppings appeared to have been deposited in different years. In August 1963 I found another group of pellets in the same area. Earlier that year, Moose droppings were found at an old Eskimo "logging" site on the east bank of the Finnie about one mile away. Finally on 20 July 1964, an old group of Moose droppings was seen in the spruce grove near the cabin at Lookout Point. Also, again on the Finnie River's east bank I picked up several strands of long deer-like hairs from tall willows. The height of the willows precluded the hair being that of a caribou. The National Museum identified the hair as that of a Moose. Although we still have not seen Moose in the area, I am convinced that they are present, although rare, in the lower part of the Finnie River.

Masked Shrew (*Sorex cinereus ugyunak*)—The Lookout Point area falls well within the range of this shrew as indicated by Hall and Kelson (1959). It was first described by R. M. Anderson in 1945 (Anderson and Rand, 1945) on the basis of 13 specimens examined (type specimen collected in 1909 at Tuktoyaktok, N.W.T.). On August 10, 1964 my assistant Roy Murray caught two young shrews in snaptraps placed below white spruce in the grove near our cabin at Lookout Point. Two additional shrews were taken there on August 11 and August 14. The shrews were identified as *Sorex cinereus ugyunak* by the National Museum of Canada.

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THE CALL OF THE KIT FOX

by David Chandler, Masefield

I have discussed the question of the vanishing Kit Fox (or Swift Fox) with old-time ranchers from the area south of Shaunavon and they tell me that they have not seen one in 30 years. However, the question is often raised as to whether the Kit Fox is really extinct in Saskatchewan, and certain reports that have come to the *Blue Jay* suggest that this question still has to be answered (see, for example, the article in the *Blue Jay*, 14:63-65, June 1956, by R. D. Symons and the Editor's note that accompanied the article).

On the evening of May 20, 1964 I heard what I believe to be the call of the Kit Fox, coming from the direction of some old abandoned coal mines northeast of Shaunavon. I had not heard it in this area before, but at Masefield, back in the 1950's we used to hear this call almost frequently—always in the spring of the year and in the stillness of the evening. Each year the sound came from the same direction. In mentioning this to an uncle who was a former rancher in that country, I learned that it was from the exact location where the Kit Fox was consistently heard in the early days of his ranching.

Once familiar with the call (assuming that this is the call of the Kit Fox, as I believe), you could not mistake it. It is always difficult to capture the essence of sound by mere description, but heard in the distance this call can be described as soft and plaintive, somewhat suggestive of the Mourning Dove. It can be imitated by whistling through the nose and mouth at the same time, while shaping the tongue as though saying "KOoo KOOooo" (abruptly stop the first KOoo and let the last trail out).

Has anyone heard the call of the Kit Fox?