

SOME RECENT SASKATCHEWAN RACCOON RECORDS

by **Wayne C. Harris**, Raymore

The range of the Raccoon (*Procyon lotor*) was until recently thought to extend only to the southern portion of the province. Harvey Beck (*A guide to Saskatchewan mammals*, S. N. H. S. Spec. Publ. No. 1, 1958) gives records from Estevan, Regina, Carlyle, Disley, Kelster, Meadow Lake, Moose Mountain, North Portal, Vantage and Wauchope. The Meadow Lake report is the only record north of the Qu'Appelle River Valley, thus leaving a gap of approximately 300 miles in which there are no records.

The following records partially fill this gap:

Norman B. Beug, Raymore, in the fall of 1967 (thought to have been September although the exact date is unknown) sighted a Raccoon eight miles south and one mile east of Raymore as it ran through the headlights of a truck.

Dave Gray, Wildlife Research Branch, Department of Natural Resources, Saskatoon, found a road-killed Raccoon 10 miles south of Saskatoon on highway No. 11 in June 1969. This individual was a male and was thought to have been an adult.

On September 5, 1969, at 8:35 p.m., J. B. Gollop and Hugh Boyd, Canadian Wildlife Service, Saskatoon, saw a single Raccoon crossing a road two miles east of Strehlow (approximately 15 miles SSE of Saskatoon).

The most recent record is from an area seven and one-half miles west of Semans. On September 12, 1971 the writer picked up two individuals which had been hit by vehicles on highway No. 15. The two animals were within 25 yards of one another on the road. One of these was a female, the other a male; the closeness of the kills suggests that they were probably a pair.

DIE-OFF OF AMBYSTOMA TIGRINUM IN A PRAIRIE POND

by **E. A. Driver**, Canadian Wildlife Service, Saskatoon

One hundred and fifty-two dead larval tiger salamanders, *Ambystoma tigrinum*, from 9 to 13 centimeters (approximately four to five inches) in length were counted in a 0.19 hectare (0.5 acre) pond near Floral, Saskatchewan (52°02'N, 106°31'W), in mid-afternoon on July 10, 1970. No dead adults were observed. Several live larvae were seen on the morning of July 10.

The pond had a maximum depth of 62 centimeters (24 inches) and was moderately fresh, having a total dissolved solid concentration of 520 parts per million. The water was slightly brown in colour (50 Hazen units) and weakly alkaline, pH 7.6. No dissolved oxygen readings were taken on July 10. Emergent vegetation consisted of

hard stem bulrush (*Scirpus acutus*), whitetop (*Scolochloa festucacea*), water parsnip (*Sium suave*) and spike rush (*Eleocharis*). Aquatic macrophytes included ivy-leaf duckweed (*Lemna trisulca*), water milfoil (*Myriophyllum exalbescens*) and water starwort (*Callitriche*). Neither green nor blue-green algae bloom occurred in this pond in 1970.

The counts included all salamanders on the substrate from the pond edge to a depth of 30 centimeters (one foot). This area represents 35% of the surface area of the pond. Assuming a uniform distribution of larval salamanders, an estimate of the total population was 434 or 0.23 salamanders per square meter of substrate.

Three specimens were submitted to