

ALBINO GOPHERS



Photo by Joan Dew

Albino gopher at Lacombe, Alberta

A family of albino gophers (Richardson's Ground Squirrel) was noticed on June 6 on a farm a few miles north of Lacombe, Alberta, land location SW15-41-26-W4. At this time all four of them were around one hole but a few days later they moved into separate holes. I first saw them on June 12 when I observed that they were pure white except for a small black patch at

the tip of the tail and that their eyes were pink. They seemed considerably tamer than normally coloured gophers and with a little patience I managed to get very close to one and even touched it without alarming it. The enclosed photograph is a picture of one of these gophers.—Joan Dew, Box 394, Lacombe, Alberta.

POSSIBLE OCCURRENCE OF COUGAR NEAR FORT SMITH, N.W.T.

by **E. Kuyt**, Canadian Wildlife Service, Fort Smith, N.W.T.

Mr. D. Bohnet of Fort Smith, N.W.T., informed me that on August 30, 1970 he and his wife had briefly observed two cougars (*Felis concolor*) about five miles south of the Parson's Lake fire lookout tower in the northern part of Wood Buffalo National Park. The geographic location of the sighting would be about 59°50'N, 112°25'W. The animals were seen at a distance of about 50 yards and appeared to be

of equal size. Mr. Bohnet thought that in size they approximated that of a large dog. He did not see any spots or markings but did note the animals' long tails and general light tan colouration.

Another resident of Fort Smith, Mr. M. Hewitt, had told me some time ago that on March 17, 1967 he had seen a large cat standing on the edge of the road, about 12 miles north of Hay