SASKATCHEWAN CHRISTMAS MAMMAL COUNT — 1976

Compiled by WAYNE C. HARRIS, Box 93, Raymore, Saskatchewan S0A 3J0

A total of 33 areas recorded 22 species during the count period — an increase of five reporting localities over last year. Several new species were added this year including Elk at two localities, Badger at three and Norway Rat and Pronghorn at one each.

Several species which normally spend the winter hibernating were still active at Christmas — Striped Skunk and Badger. The Badger which relies primarily on rodents and insects for food, may have been stimulated into prolonged activity by the extremely dry fall which resulted in the soil not freezing solid, allowing them to dig into the ground after mice.

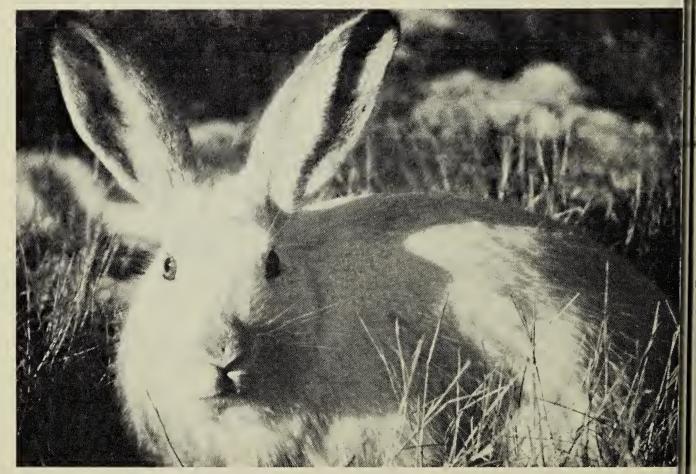
White-tailed Jack Rabbits and Snowshoe Hares were very common, with several localities commenting on the large number of Snowshoe Hares present. Snowshoe Hares in particular may be nearing the peak of their population cycle. Coyotes were the m frequently reported species, appeing to be thriving on the rabbit p ulations.

Conversely the Lynx was reported. Are their populations or are they not moving south of forest because of the high Snowsl Hare populations in the forest wh supply ample food for them ther

For weather, coverage and p ticipants please refer to the Christ Bird Counts found elsewhere in issue. Mouse tracks have be recorded under Mouse spp. in table.

Symbols found in the table are follows:

- * Identified by tracks with number of animals by track parentheses.
- + Seen during the count pe but not on the count day.
- H Heard only.



White-tailed Jack Rabbit

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