

# BOBCAT SIGHTING AT SASKATCHEWAN LANDING

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On 14 March 1986 the authors were hiking in Saskatchewan Landing Provincial Park to observe and photograph wildlife. The weather was sunny and mild, with a slight breeze. Over 100 deer, the majority of them White-tailed Deer, were observed during the peak activity periods of early morning and late afternoon.

Shortly before 5:00 p.m. a group of five Mule Deer were seen in a deep coulee in the rugged hills of the southwest region of the park. They were cautiously approached, but ran when we were about 200 m away. Another animal appeared on the hillside, moving upslope. The body form and movement immediately suggested that the animal was a large wild cat. Viewing it through a 220 mm telephoto lens confirmed the features of a bob-tailed cat. Four photographs were taken before the animal disappeared over a hilltop.

The animal was identified as a Bobcat. The location of the sighting is at the northern limit of the Bobcat's range in the prairie provinces.<sup>2</sup> <sup>1</sup> Nero points out that Bobcat sightings in the province are rare and should be reported in order to establish the actual range and status of the species.<sup>3</sup>

We thank W.J. Maher for reviewing this note.

<sup>1</sup> BANFIELD, A.W.F. 1974. The mammals of Canada. University of Toronto Press.

<sup>2</sup> BECK, W.H. 1958. A guide to Saskatchewan mammals. Sask. Nat. Hist. Soc. Special Publ. No. 1.

<sup>3</sup> NERO, R.W. 1961. Editor's note. *Blue Jay* 19(1):42.



*Mule Deer*

*Wayne Lynch*