

An early Richardson's Ground Squirrel - otherwise a "gopher", was seen at Yorkton March 18, but Miss E.K. Jones writes that they were out at Raymore March 8.

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C. Fehrenbach, Saltcoats, a new member of our society, has lived in Saskatchewan 56 years and has always been interested in its wildlife. One point which has long perplexed him is what becomes of skunks which are shot and allowed to lie around. After a few days, he has always noted that the carcass completely disappears. It has been suggested that owls carry them away, but since a skunk is so much heavier than an owl this does not seem very probable. However, he once had an experience which seems to throw some light on this problem. A few years ago he shot a skunk about six feet from a small culvert. The body lay around for some days and then it too disappeared leaving only a slight depression in the grass where it had lain. But near the opening of the culvert Mr. Fehrenbach noticed that the soil had been disturbed as if some animal had been scratching there, so he looked inside, and there was another skunk, "rolling, tossing and throwing his dead friend around." The next day when Mr. Fehrenbach returned to the spot there was "no sight or sound of either animal dead or alive." "Has anyone," he asks, "ever come across a similar occurrence?"

With regard to owls eating skunks, it seems to be a proven point that Great Horned Owls do kill and devour skunks - A.C. Bent states in "Life Histories of North American Birds", "The nest of the Great Horned Owl often smells strongly of skunk, and the birds themselves often retain this pungent odor long after they have been made into museum specimens." - But just how the Horned Owl consumes a skunk we have no idea; possibly they return time and time again to the kill - unless or course, another skunk with cannibalistic tendencies comes along!

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A Jumping Mouse captured by Mrs. E.W. Cates, McLean, last Fall was identified by Dr. R.M. Anderson of the National Museum, Ottawa, as a Saskatchewan Jumping Mouse, a variety more common in the western part of the province. Tawny yellow in color, jumping mice can easily be identified by the long tail, short front legs and greatly elongated hind legs. Fairly commonly distributed, they seem to prefer grassy meadows and often reveal themselves by leaping from cover as an intruder approaches, hence their popular name of "Kangaroo Mice." Unlike most mice they hibernate during the winter months - as a matter of fact, Jumping Mice are only distantly related to true mice and are classified in a small family by themselves.

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We had reports of porcupines being seen last year at Gerald, Grenfell, the Qu'Appelle Valley, Nipawin and Kindersley. W.H. Howes thinks that the two which he saw at Kindersley were the Black-haired Porcupine, while a lighter form seems to have been observed at Gerald. We should be glad to get specimens of porcupine spines at any time.

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Mule Deer, often called "Jumping Deer", are increasing in the eastern part of the province. They have been reported as becoming more numerous in the Qu'Appelle, at Gerald, and east of Saltcoats. They may be coming in from Manitoba.

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A much greater interest in native wildlife has been evident of late. The provincial legislature indulged in a spirited discussion over the merits and demerits of the coyote, which animal was strongly defended by Lieut. Niles Buchanan (C.C.F. Notukeu-Willowbunch). And, according to the Regina Leader-Post, the annual meeting of the Association of Rural Municipalities "took time out from the discussion of weighty problems to delve into a little natural history, as they argued the good and bad points of weasel and badger." All of which is to the good, say we.