

need at this time for additional ground feed for elk and smaller deer and the urgent necessity for more water on the game range about the height of land during the heat of summer days can well be provided by the activities of this little animal

engineer. More beaver ponds will attract more waterfowl, marsh birds, and other feathered folk to enhance the value of sanctuary and delight the eye and heart of the nature lover seeking to profit by National Park ideals.

RUNNING SPEEDS OF SKUNK AND EUROPEAN HARE

By D. A. MacLULICH, B.Sc.F.



ACTUAL measurements of the running speeds of animals are seldom obtained, therefore it is thought worth while to place on record some that the writer has been fortunate enough to observe. By way of comparison it may be mentioned that Seton (1928) states that the White-tailed Jack Rabbit, *Lepus townsendii*, can travel at the rate of thirty miles an hour; the Black-tailed Jack, *Lepus californicus*, twenty-eight miles per hour, and the Varying Hare, *Lepus americanus*, at twenty-six miles an hour. Vorhies and Taylor (1933) record that "Speedometer tests show that probably both species of jack rabbits [*Lepus californicus* and *Lepus alleni*] readily attain speeds of thirty to thirty-five miles an hour. *Lepus alleni*, at least, is capable of higher speeds on rare occasions."

A European Hare, *Lepus europaeus*, was paced by the car on a narrow gravel road in Innisfil township of Simcoe County, Ontario, on October 12, 1935. With the car about thirty-five feet behind it the hare ran in the glare of the head-lights for about two hundred yards at a speed varying between twenty and twenty-two miles an hour. It finally dodged sharply off at right angles into a field. The full moon gave bright illumination.

A second measurement was obtained near Beaverton in Ontario County, Ontario, at midnight on October 18, 1935. This European hare ran, apparently at full speed, alongside a front wheel of the car for a quarter of a mile at thirty miles an hour.

A Skunk, *Mephitis mephitis*, ran 150 yards along a narrow dirt road ahead of the automobile in the light of the head-lamps on September 21, 1933, by that part of Buckshot Lake which is within Abinger township in Lennox and Addington County, Ontario. It ran at a speed of about six miles an hour. Although it nosed off to the side of the road several times it did not leave it until it reached a clearing beyond an alder swamp. Presuming the animal would leave the track if the head-light glare were removed I switched the lights off for a few seconds but the beast continued to run down the road.

The next year, nearby, in the same township while I was passing through a sugar maple forest a Skunk ran before the car for about one hundred yards. This was on September 19. Once the Skunk stopped and turned to leave the road but apparently could not see its way quickly enough so it resumed its flight. I turned off the lights and the Skunk immediately hurried from the road. Its speed was found to be between eight and nine miles an hour. Both this night and that of the previous episode were dark, so the car lights could have been dazzling.

LITERATURE CITED

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VORHIES, CHAS. T. & TAYLOR, W. P., 1933, *The Life Histories and Ecology of Jack Rabbits, Lepus alleni and Lepus californicus ssp., in relation to grazing in Arizona*. Univ. Ariz., College Agri., Tech. Bull. No. 49.

NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

THE AMERICAN CASPIAN TERN (*Hydroprogne caspia imperator*) AT OTTAWA. As I was standing just outside my house, at 34 Grosvenor Avenue, in the southern part of Ottawa, between the Rideau River and the Rideau Canal, about 1.30 p.m. (Daylight Saving Time) on May 9,

1935, I heard, almost directly overhead, the loud, harsh cry, "A-a-ark!", of the American Caspian Tern. I recognized it immediately, before I looked up. On looking up quickly, I saw the Caspian Tern, which I estimated to be about 300 feet above me. It was flying eastward, and



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