Back tracking is one of the oldest and most commonly practiced tricks of the hare. It will stop, run back over its own trail for fifty yards or so, then jump from the line and away in a different direction. Once a hare gets a good lead, it may back track repeatedly in a very short distance. Experienced hounds, of course, will soon unravel this puzzle. When they come to a stop, they will commence to circle in an ever-increasing circumference until the new line is picked up.

During the chase, the hare is seldom more than several fields ahead. It often waltzes on its hind toes or "spy-hops" to study the progress of the hunt. Sizing things up, it apparently decides that things are developing too well and that matters must be complicated somewhat.

The next step usually taken is another simple trick. The hare runs through a rail or stump fence, travels about a hundred yards into a field, and then back tracks to the fence. It goes through the fence again and after loping a few yards over its own trail, suddenly jumps at least 6 feet to the side and proceeds at top speed from the scene.

The pursuing hounds, when they arrive at the dead end in the field, instinctively circle at a check such as this. But considerable time is often spent before a hound will cross the fence to pick up the trail where the hare left off.

Several times have I watched a hare back-track to a stone fence, then run the top of the fence to a great or less distance. Such a trick often ended in a complete loss.

An interesting experience which happened one winter in the Caledon Hills of Ontario was the loss of a hare in a cedar swamp. After about an hour's run over hilly country, the hare had entered the swamp and had immediately proceeded to make a large oval of about a mile in circumference.

The hounds carried the line about six times around and finally came to a loss. Tracks in the snow told the story. What had happened was quite simple. The hare had completed the oval three times and was part way around for the fourth lap when, with a bound, it had left the oval and waved farewell for parts unknown. The hounds had continued to run the oval until all scent had been lost.

Time and again, when a hare had been run for three hours or so and was beginning to tire, another hare would come in from the side and follow it. Invariably, after a short time, it would become aware of its plight and leave the trail of its weary neighbour. What would the hounds do? They almost always followed the newcomer, and the tired hare excaped.

Some days we would travel fifteen or twenty miles in a nearly straight line because a hare, running in a big circle, would pass on its trail to another hare at the extreme of its territory; and the same thing would happen repeatedly, one hare after another.

NOTES ON THE RANGE OF THE LABRADOR SHREW,
Sorex cinereus miscix

By C. F. JACKSON

SOREX CINEREUS was first described by Kerr in 1792 as *Sorex arcticus cinereus* In Merriam's revision, (*North American Fauna*, No. 10, 1895, pp. 5-122), the species is noted as extending through "the boreal and transition zones of North America from New England to Alaska". In Jackson's review of the long-tailed shrews, (*North American Fauna*, No. 51, 1928, pp. 1-238), five sub-species of *Sorex cinereus* are recognized. On the map shown on page 39, the eastern range in Labrador of *Sorex cinereus cinereus* extends to a line drawn from Godbout near the north of the St. Lawrence River to Fort Chimo on Ungava Bay. Seven specimens from the latter place, and fifty-eight from Godbout were examined by Jackson.

Dr. R. M. Anderson, in *The Mammals of the Eastern Arctic and Hudson Bay*, (Bulletin Canadian Department of the Interior, 1934, pp. 67-137), notes *Sorex cinereus cinereus* for this region, and Dr. Eidmann (*Zur Kenntnis der Saügetierfauna von Sudlabrador, Zeitschrift fur Saügetierkunde*, 1935, pp. 39-61), assigned certain specimens taken in the Moisie region to the same sub-species.

To the eastward along the Atlantic seaboard is the sub-species, *Sorex cinereus miscix*. Several hundred miles of territory intervene between the two sub-species.

In the summer of 1937, a collecting trip was taken to the region just east of Seven Islands and the Moisie River, the trip extending eastward to the Pigou River. This region lies on the western

edge of the unmapped territory and in proximity to the region occupied by *Sorex cinereus cinereus*. Twenty-six specimens of *Sorex* were taken Below are the measurements of six typical adults in comparison with measurements given by Jackson (1928) in his review for *Sorex cinereus cinereus* and *Sorex cinereus miscix*. The latter measurements were obtained from the type specimen in the Bangs collection which was taken from the Atlantic seaboard.

			♀	♀	♀	♂	?	♀	♂
	(*a*)	(*b*)	325	241	361	304	298	309	228
Total length	98	104	104	101.5	100	102	100	104	100
Tail vertebrae	40	44	44	43	47	43	44	45	41
Hind foot	11	14	14	12	12	13	12	12	12
Cranial breadth	7.6	8.1	8.5	8.2	8.1	8	8 2	8.5	8.2
Condylobasal length	15.6	16.9	17.4	16.4	16.9	16.7	16.9	16.5	16.4
Interorbital breadth	3.1	3.2	3.	3.	3.1	3.	3.1	3.1	3.
Palatal length	5.9	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.4	6.7	6.4	6.6
Maxillary breadth	4.1	4.	4.2	4.1	4.1	4.4	4.2	4.2	4.2
Maxillary tooth row	5.5	6.	6.6	6.1	6.6	6.5	6 4	6.1	6.2

(*a*) Adult male, *Sorex cinereus cinereus* from Drury Run, Clinton County, Pa.
(*b*) Type specimen, adult male, from Black Bay, Labrador.

Through the kindness of Dr. G. M. Allen of the Museum of Comparative Zoology, it was possible to compare the above specimens with those of *Sorex cinereus miscix* from the Atlantic seaboard and also with *Sorex cinereus cinereus* from Godbout. Although color is a very doubtful guide in the identification of any of the genus *Sorex*, especially when in summer pelage, the pattern matches perfectly with specimens of *miscix*.

On this basis and a comparison of the above measurements with those given by Jackson, there would seem to be no question but that *Sorex cinereus miscix* extends at least as far westward as the Moisie River and the Bay of Seven Islands. This increases the known distribution of *Sorex cinereus miscix* by several hundred miles and indicates that the entire eastern half of Labrador is probably populated by this sub-species.

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SIXTIETH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE OTTAWA FIELD-NATURALISTS' CLUB

REPORT OF COUNCIL

Meetings.—Transaction of the Council's business during the year required three meetings with an average attendance of 14. These meetings were held at the following homes: January 7th, 1938; Mr. and Mrs. P. A. Taverner; March 8th, Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Sternberg; November 22nd, Mr. and Mrs. P. A. Taverner.

Lectures.—The Annual Meeting of the Club, on December 9th, 1937, was addressed by Mr. A. E. Porsild, of the National Herbarium of Canada, who gave a most interesting illustrated talk on "A Summer Trip to Labrador and Greenland".

Under the distinguished patronage of His Excellency the Governor-General, a lecture entitled "Bird Marvels in Picture and Sound," illustrated by a series of sound motion pictures of rare and remarkable birds in their native haunts, was given by Dr. Arthur A. Allen, Professor of Ornithology at Cornell University, in the auditorium of Glebe Collegiate Institute, Ottawa, under the auspices of the Club, on January 31, 1938. An audience of about 1200 persons greatly enjoyed hearing this very fine address.

The Lecture Committee also co-operated with the Excursions Committee in connection with the series of local lectures presented under the Club's auspices during the winter of 1937-38.

Bird Census.—The local bird census was taken on December 26, 1937, with 20 persons taking part. There were 22 species and over 2600 individual birds reported. The report was sent to Bird-Lore immediately for publication.

Excursions.—Two Committee meetings were held during the year, February 16, at the home