guessed at, as we had only the one piece of evidence, but numerous traps spread out in other places than this alder thicket with one exception, yielded nothing. This was across the stream, perhaps 80 feet away, where the beaver had worn a path through the sod in climbing up a steep bank. About 5 feet up the bare path ceased, and under the overhanging sod were two mouse holes. One was right in the center of the path and there was no possible chance but that the beaver would spring any trap set there before the mouse got into it, but the other hole was at one side, and there I made a little shelf with my knife and set the trap which caught a *Napæozapus* the next morning. Further trapping at this point was fruitless, but the holes looked good, even when we left. In view of this little insight into the habits of this species I should feel rather confident of trapping it in alder thickets along beaver streams when the fruit of the alders was ready to eat.

The beautiful colors of these mice faded rapidly, and when the last one was caught Mr. F. W. Fraser kindly gave me a painting of the fresh specimen in accurate colors. An interesting feature of this new acquaintance is the instant identification by means of the size, color, and tail. Often have I tried to study a *hudsonius* into an *insignis* in vain; but when *insignis* was taken, there was never a doubt, nor any need to turn to a description. I should say that *insignis* weighs 50 to 100 per cent more than *hudsonius*; the colors, similar in the museum specimen, are much more vivid, and the tail is so much heavier at the base, as to be an immediate mark of recognition.—W. E. SAUNDERS, *London, Ontario*.

AN INQUISITIVE PORCUPINE

Just at dusk on the evening of June 12, 1919, I caught sight of an adult porcupine (*Erethizon dorsatum*) coming along a road through heavy timber in the Penokee Range, 8 miles southwest of Mellen, Wisconsin. I remained standing still. He approached in his slow, deliberate way, absolutely unaware of my presence. The air was calm, there being no detectable breeze. At a distance of about 20 feet from me the animal stopped, looked up and around in different directions, and sniffed the air. He evidently was either rather suspicious or detected the odor of food. But he remained there only a second or two, then continued to within 15 feet, again stopped, looked directly at me, and sniffed for nearly 2 minutes, his nose in the air toward me all the while. Meantime I withstood scores of biting mosquitoes and remained perfectly silent. After "sizing up" the situation, so to speak, the porcupine changed his course an angle of 45 degrees and came directly toward me. I remained silent until he began gnawing my leather puttees, when I thought it time to protest, so I made a slight movement, and "porkie" scampered away and hid among the logs and brush by the roadside.—HARTLEY H. T. JACKSON, *U. S. Biological Survey, Washington, D. C.*

GRAYSQUIRRELS AND NUTS

At the National Zoological Park in Washington on January 23 last, I saw a graysquirrel burying a nut. It is commonly supposed that this instinct is active only in autumn. Can any one give observations to show that it is operative the