

however, when it became friendly with a female Airedale dog, lost some of its wariness, and frequently came near the farm buildings where the dog lived. It was killed with a shot gun in a field on the farm.

Mr. Jones has generously deposited the skin and skull in the Biological Survey collection, United States National Museum, where the specimen becomes number 235,503. It may be tentatively referred to *Canis latrans latrans*, but with our present confused knowledge of the taxonomic relations of the coyotes exact identification of individual specimens is almost impossible. The animal was adult, but not old, the teeth showing only a trace of wear. It differs in no pronounced color or cranial characteristics from a male specimen collected in May, 1910, at Rockford, Iowa, which may be considered typical *latrans*.

The question naturally arises as to how a coyote reached this eastern locality. It is, of course, impossible to say definitely. The animal probably escaped from captivity. Or it may represent an extreme easterly extension of the geographic range of coyotes. There is no direct evidence for or against either of the suppositions. It is known that the range of the coyote has gradually extended northward and eastward, but it would seem hardly probable that the species has, as yet, ingressed a region as far east as central Maryland.—HARTLEY H. T. JACKSON, *U. S. Biological Survey, Washington, D. C.*

AN OBSERVATION ON THE CARNIVOROUS PROPENSITIES OF THE GRAY GOPHER

While on a camping trip in northern Minnesota during August I chanced to make an interesting observation on the preying habits of the gray gopher, *Citellus franklini* (Sabine). On this particular occasion our party had stopped for lunch in a vacant yard in the forest of western Aitkin County. Suddenly we heard sharp squeals coming from the edge of a copse and looking in that direction we noticed what appeared to be a struggle going on in the grass. Hurrying to the spot we discovered a nearly full-grown gray gopher struggling with a young rabbit which it had seized behind the right ear. The gopher hesitated a moment on our approach, but did not release its grip until I stepped to within a pace of it, when it darted off a distance of two or three feet. The rabbit, I observed, was alive but unable to move. It was fully as large as the gopher. We stood still and the gopher returned to the attack, biting the rabbit furiously about the body. Again I frightened the gopher away but it returned once more to the attack and repeated its previous performance. I frightened it away a third time, but again it returned and rushed upon the prey biting it here and there about the body until it was apparently dead. Then running its nose rapidly over the carcass the gopher began gnawing at the hind quarters.

We left the scene and about twenty minutes later I returned to the spot and found the gopher still gnawing at the carcass, the hind quarters of which, except for skin and bones, had been devoured. Examining the spot where the struggle was first seen I found a small "form," in which the rabbit had apparently been lying when it was pounced upon. A week or so previous to this occasion, at Gull Lake in Crow Wing County, I watched an individual of this same species making after a striped gopher, which, however, escaped into a brush-pile.—ARTHUR M. JOHNSON, *Department of Botany, University of Minnesota.*