

WILD AND FERAL MAMMALS

Sorex minutus. **Pygmy Shrew.**

A number were trapped by I. J. Linn in March-April and by Prof. Harvey in August. We hope to publish an account of Mr Linn's work on these specimens in a later report. The species was seen or heard on the Terraces, in Millcombe, St John's Valley, the Hotel garden, and the Lighthouse Field.

Bat sp ?

A small bat was seen over the airfield one evening in May.

Oryctolagus cuniculus. **Rabbit.**

Abundant. According to Jim Prouse, about three per cent of the rabbits he traps are black.

Rattus rattus. **Black Rat.**

Seen only in Millcombe. There was a nest in one of the out-houses in the early part of the year. Four were caught on the Ugly slopes in early December.

Rattus norvegicus. **Brown Rat.**

Abundant, and found in most parts of the island.

Halichoerus grypus. **Grey Seal.**

Present in all months. The greatest number seen together was forty-four (in June). Calves were reported as early as the last week in June.

Dama dama. **Fallow Deer.**

The single surviving doe was seen frequently throughout the year. When not alone she usually runs with the Red Deer.

Sika nippon. **Japanese Deer.**

The greatest number seen together was sixty-four, in June. I am convinced that the population is not greatly in excess of this figure. About ten were killed in September.

Cervus elaphus. **Red Deer.**

Eleven were frequently seen together in the spring, but no more than nine in autumn. This is probably the total population.

Capra hircus. **Feral Goat.**

The population was about forty at the end of the year.

Soay Sheep.

There were between seventy and eighty this autumn, though the breeding season was not as successful as in 1952.

