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## Mule Deer Record for Minnesota

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Gunderson, Harvey L., "Mule Deer Record for Minnesota" (1948). *Mammalogy Papers: University of Nebraska State Museum*. 152.

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#### MULE DEER RECORD FOR MINNESOTA

During the hunting season of 1947, Leonard Nygren shot a deer near Pillager, Cass County, Minnesota. The deer, which weighed 153 pounds dressed, was disqualified in a sportsman's contest because it was not considered a white-tailed deer, according to a newspaper report. The report was investigated and the animal in question was identified as a mule deer, *Odocoileus hemionus*. This extends the known range of this deer in Minnesota nearly 100 miles to the east. John Jarosz, Museum Preparator, and the writer went to Nygren's place nine miles north of Pillager and measured and skinned the animal which is now specimen number 2457 in the Minnesota Museum of Natural History collection. The total length of the animal was 72 inches, the ears were 10 inches, the metatarsal gland was 7 inches long, and the tail had a black tip. The vertical tine of the antler was not dichotomously branched, although quite long.

This is the first Minnesota record of a mule deer since 1941, when one was killed in Atlanta Township, Becker County, by a car. That specimen is number 1924 in the collections of the Minnesota Museum of Natural History.

Swanson, Surber and Roberts in "Mammals of Minnesota" (Minn. Dept. Conser., Tech. Bull. 2: 99, 1945) state, "The mule deer was found originally in western Minnesota at least as far east as northeastern Marshall County and possibly further, because it is a wide ranging animal."—HARVEY L. GUNDERSON, *Minnesota Museum of Natural History, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota*. Received January 18, 1948.