



By Hayward



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4/1/38 While making our sliding descent upon the snow and fir covered slopes, directly below the ledge resting cliff in Grove Creek, Prof. Hayward chanced to perceive a white rabbit like form. Stopping abruptly, not twenty feet from object, he discerned a white head and two conspicuous white ears peering over a large boulder at the base of a fir tree and recognizable at once as a snow shoe rabbit. Under the

obscure and shaded protection at the base of this fir he sat motionless as if frozen to its position, while soft rays of sunshine, sifting through the green boughs above, accentuated its apparentness against the darker trunk and recess of its chosen habitat. At a 10 foot distance an ordinary conversation could be carried on with any conspicuous movement we would care to make, even a sharp whistle would not deflect his firm position.

Observations at a closer distance than 4 feet would start a noticeable twitching of the nose and a reflex movement of body as if in attempt to jump. A closer approach would send him off <sup>of his rock ledge</sup> burrow, <sup>however,</sup> more than 10 or 12 feet behind and always within the protection offered by the fir tree. In <sup>our</sup> retreating from this entrance ~~into~~ rocks at base of fir the rabbit would immediately regain his former position. This process was repeated several time during our occasion to photograph him. Prof. Hayward experienced photographers luck today, in that he had only two films left and these being used on the subject before realizing that the model would pose in any position according to our demand. From the reactions of this animal would be inclined to believe that the burrow he was so concerned about, housed a family of young rabbits because if he chose he could readily resort to protection in evidence on all sides.