





## About Our Cover

The Antelope Jackrabbit (*Lepus alleni*) is one of two jackrabbit species found in the Sonoran and Chihuahuan deserts of the southwestern United States and Mexico. The other is the Black-tailed Jackrabbit (*L. californicus*), which lives in all four southwestern deserts. Jackrabbits, unlike rabbits such as the cottontail, are true hares, in that they do not build nests for having offspring. The young are born with a full coat of fur and with eyes wide open. They are most active at dusk and dawn and feed on vegetation such as grasses, leaves, and cactus. They do not drink water, obtaining it from their diet, especially cactus stems. Natural enemies of the Antelope Jackrabbit include coyotes, bobcats, foxes, hawks, owls, and snakes. Their method of evading predators usually involves running in a zig-zag pattern with their white tail raised. Their speed (up to 35 mph) and the tail flashing are the reason for their name. Jackrabbits have the ability to increase their overall metabolic rate by 15% in the winter as compared with the summer rate. This photograph was taken by John Bartsch, NABT member for over 40 years, in Saguaro National Park near Tucson, Arizona. He used a Canon 1D mkIV camera with a Canon 100–400 mm f/4.5–5.6 lens. E-mail: [jbartsch@tds.net](mailto:jbartsch@tds.net).

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