

from Prince Edward Island. The specimens have been kindly identified by Mr. J. O. Maloney in Washington, as follows:—

Water-reservoir at Chatham, N.B., August 26th, 1926; *Porcellio rathkei* Brandt.

Shediac, N.B., September 5th, 1926: *Oniscus asellus* L.; *Cylisticus convexus* (De Geer); *Porcellio rathkei*.

Tyne Valley, P.E.I., September 13th, 1926; *Porcellio scaber* Latr., *P. rathkei*.

Pugwash, N.S., September 19th, 1926: *Porcellio rathkei*.

Pictou, N.S., September 22, 1926: *Oniscus asellus*; *Cylisticus convexus*, *Porcellio rathkei*.

Truro, N.S., September 23, 1926: *Porcellio scaber*; *P. rathkei*.

Public Gardens, Halifax, N.S., September 26, 1926: *Porcellio rathkei*.

Little Lake (between Mount Uniacke and Windsor), N.S., September 28th, 1926: *Porcellio rathkei*.

Avonport (Minas Basin), N.S., September 30th, 1926: *Porcellio rathkei*.

Scott Bay (Bay of Fundy), N.S., October 2nd, 1926: *Porcellio scaber*; *P. rathkei*.

Head of St. Mary's Bay (Bay of Fundy), N.S., October 01th, 1926: *Oniscus asellus*; *Porcellio scaber* (together with an Amphipod, *Orchestia grillus* (Bosc.); the latter kindly identified by Mr. C. R. Shoemaker of the U.S.N..M., Wash., D.C.).

## GUMWEED (*GRINDELIA SQUARROSA* (PURSH) DUNAL) IN ONTARIO

By HERBERT GROH



REFERENCE to occurrences of gumweed in Ontario, which appeared in *The Canadian Field-Naturalist* for February 1929, has prompted me to look into the history of the weed in the east, so far as it is on record in the files of the Canadian Weed Survey of the Division of Botany, Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa.

No records whatever are at hand from any point east of the neighbourhood of Ottawa, Ontario.

The earliest Ontario record appears to be that of W. Scott, in 1891, at Skead's Mills (now Westboro) near Ottawa. This specimen is in the National Herbarium, and a specimen from the same station collected by R. H. Cowley in 1901 is in the Division of Botany Herbarium at the Experimental Farm. The colony is still to be seen along Main Street, Westboro, near the Ottawa river, and along the river towards the new Champlain Bridge. It is growing on rather shallow soil overlying rock, and has not spread much in all these years. Very few people, probably not a great many even of the present members of the Field-Naturalists' Club, are aware of its occurrence in the vicinity of Ottawa. It has also been collected at Rockcliffe Park, at Billings Bridge and within the city limits (Fairmont Ave.).

A specimen collected by Dr. J. A. Carroll at St. Catharines in 1898, and preserved in the National Herbarium, is the second of which we have knowledge. There is a Toronto record for 1912. Gumweed has been found in at least 22

counties throughout Old Ontario, and westward to the Manitoba boundary where it begins to be indigenous. These counties are: Carleton (two townships), Renfrew, Lanark, Hastings, Northumberland, Durham (three townships), York (two townships), Simcoe, Peel, Halton (two townships), Wentworth, Lincoln, Brant, Oxford, Middlesex, Lambton, Waterloo, Wellington, Huron, Algoma, Thunder Bay and Rainy River.

Although somewhat widely distributed, gumweed appears to be nowhere very aggressive. Its natural habitat is the dry prairie, and it is said to be more at home than most plants in fairly alkaline situations. It can scarcely be called a weed of arable land, and is usually found in Ontario in undisturbed ground, waste places and on roadsides. In meadows it will persist by means of its perennial roots, and is rejected by stock on account of its coarse and firmly toothed foliage, and viscid flower heads, so that once it is really established it is likely to remain until the land is plowed. The spread of the weed is accomplished chiefly, no doubt, through commerce in western crop seeds in which its seeds occur as an impurity, and locally by the usual agencies of seed dispersal, including conveyance by carriers to which it may adhere.

It should be noted that I have used the name gumweed for this plant, instead of "tarweed" as in the article referred to above. The plants of the western genus *Madia* are commonly known as tarweeds, and with their heavy-scented excretion, deserve that descriptive term decidedly

more than does the merely sticky *Grindelia*. The only specimen of *Madia* from an eastern locality that I have ever seen was sent to the Division during September, 1928, by Mathias D'Amours,

Trois Pistoles, Temiscouata Co., Que. It was said to be growing in a hay field, and was regarded as being weedy and established. The specimen was identified as *Madia glomerata* Hook.

### BIRD CENSUS, 1928

Sunday, December 23, 1928. 9.30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wind south. Clear after wind and rain. Weather for some time previous, very mild with rain and wind. Temp. 42° to 46°. Area covered from Courtenay to Point Holmes (Comox) Vancouver Island, mainly following shore line. Distance about ten miles, by car and on foot. Observers together most of the time.

Western Grebe, 72; Holboell's Grebe, 35; Horned Grebe, 72; Common Loon, 10; Pacific Loon, 10; Red-throated Loon, 3; Pigeon Guillemotte, 1; California Murre, 4; Glaucous-winged Gull, 2200; Herring Gull (Thayer's), 20; Short-billed Gull, 70; White-crested Cormorant, 1; Red-breasted Merganser, 15; Hooded Merganser, 5; Mallard, 640; Widgeon, 250; Green-winged Teal, 6; Greater Scaup, 325; Lesser Scaup, 68; American Golden-eye, 500, Barrow's Golden-eye, 7, Bufflehead, 210; Harlequin, 52; American Scoter, 40; Surf Scoter, 525; White-winged

Scoter, 700; Heron (North West), 4; Coot, 11 Aleutian Sandpiper, 1; Red-backed Sandpiper 140; Sanderling, 2; Black Turnstone, 30; Sabine's Grouse, 1, Bald Eagle, 5; Pigmy Owl, 1; Kingfisher, 5; Harris Woodpecker, 1; Gairdner's Woodpecker, 2; Pileated Woodpecker, 1; North West Flicker, 19; Raven, 2; North West Crow, 237; Meadow Lark, 113; Brewer's Blackbird, 20; Pine Finch, 300; Oregon Junco, 22; Rusty Song Sparrow, 14; Sooty Fox Sparrow, 1; Oregon Towhee, 9; Seattle Wren, 5, Winter Wren, 5; Chestnut-backed Chickadee, 30; Western Kinglet, 28; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 1. Total number of birds, 4841. Total number of species, 54.

INTRODUCED.—English Sparrow, 5; California Quail, 25; Mongolian Pheasant, 6. Total number of introduced birds, 36. Grand total of birds, 4877. Grand total of species, 57.

ALLAN BROOKS and THEED PEARSE, Comox, B.C., observers.

### NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

WANTED—CROWS—DEAD OR ALIVE!—The discovery was recently made at the Division of Pathology, Health of Animals Branch of the Department of Agriculture, that many of the common crows are affected by tuberculosis. This is of special interest as it is the first time that tuberculosis has been found among wild birds (not in captivity).

To aid in further work on this problem we would suggest that those interested in bird life should send crows to the laboratories for examination.

The following suggestions are offered for sending specimens:

(1) When live crows are caught these may be boxed up and sent by express collect. Live crows are more useful for examination.

(2) Crows that have been killed may be boxed up and sent express collect providing the sender lives within a 24-hour journey of Ottawa.

(3) When the sender lives a distance from Ottawa, the lungs, intestine, liver and spleen should be removed, packed in dry borax and sent to the laboratory.

Send specimens to: RESEARCH LABORATORIES, MOUNTAIN ROAD, HULL, P.Q.

N.B.—This is a very important piece of work, both economically and ornithologically, being conducted by Dr. Chas. A. Mitchell in the Animal Diseases Research Institute of the Health of Animals Branch of the Dominion Department of Agriculture. It is to be hoped that all who have opportunity will assist Dr. Mitchell to procure the necessary specimens.—ORNITHOLOGICAL EDITOR.

PROTECTION OF MOOSE.—After reading Mr. Otto Schierbech's article on the moose situation in the Province of Nova Scotia the only conclusion that one can come to is that shooting during the mating season is absolutely wrong.

If the open season started from the 15th of October, the 72.4% of bulls killed from the first to fifteenth might make a very great difference to the 52% of barren cows killed during the ten days in December, and I am on the opinion that not one per cent of the hunters are capable of telling whether a cow is barren or not as the



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