

the fact that, at Carillon Island, Argenteuil County, Quebec, in the Ottawa River, about 31 miles west of Montreal, a female American Golden-eye accompanied by six downy young was seen swimming on the river by Mr. J. Albert Decarie and me on May 31, 1931.—HARRISON F. LEWIS.

SNOWY OWL CAPTURES A CROW.—When motor-ing on April 25th, 1931, in the vicinity of Rosser, Manitoba, some twenty five miles north-west of Winnipeg, the odd sight of a Snowy Owl (*Nyctea nyctea*) carrying off a Crow (*Corvus b. branchyrhynchos*) was witnessed by M. C. L. Broley and the writer. Through the kindness of Mr. Broley, I had been out to see an enormous assemblage of Blue Geese (*Chen caerulescens*) which had, since their arrival from the south, been feeding in the grain fields near Rosser. When returning to Winnipeg in the afternoon, traveling south along an old trail, a Snowy Owl, carrying in its talons a Crow, appeared suddenly from behind the car and crossed the trail in front of us. The weight of the crow seemed to hamper the owl in its flight as it was losing altitude rapidly, and it alighted

in a pasture field a few hundred feet to our right. No sooner had the Owl taken up its position to partake of the catch, than a scattered company of about thirty Crows, flocked in from our rear and formed a circle, surrounding the Owl. With loud angry cawings and out-stretched necks, the whole scene presented a real musical (?) comedy. This exhibition of numbers on the part of the Crows did not in the least perturb the Owl and it calmly proceeded to devour its victim. In a very short time it was evident the Crows decided nothing could be done to help their comrade, and in small bands they dispersed in the same direction whence they came.—FRANK L. FARLEY, *Camrose, Alberta*.

THE BIRDS OF CANADA by P. A. Taverner, National Museum of Canada, Bulletin No. 72, Biological Series No. 19, 1935, Ottawa, Printer to the King's Most Excellent Majesty. Combining the two previous volumes under the same auspices,—the Birds of Eastern Canada and the Birds of Western Canada. pp. 445; coloured plates I-LXXXVII; text figures 487; coloured map end sheets. Can be obtained for \$2.00 postpaid from the National Museum of Canada, Ottawa.

REVIEWS

MAMMALS COLLECTED BY T. T. AND E. B. MCCABE IN THE BOWRON LAKE REGION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA, by E. Raymond Hall. *Univ. Publ. Zool.*, vol. 40 no. 9 pp. 363-386, 1 figure in text. November 5, 1934

The subject matter of this report is found in a collection of 1182 specimens, representing 43 of the 45 species listed. The region concerned is just south and east of the center of British Columbia, toward the slope of the Rocky Mountains. As a painstakingly accurate statement of the systematic status and geographic significance of each of the species concerned this list will function as a satisfactory basis for comparison, in any similar work that may be essayed in adjoining regions. With an unusually adequate collection for subject matter, there were already in the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, available for comparison, collections from other parts of British Columbia that bore upon the same problems as were here presented. The report marks a definite advance in our comprehension of mammalian affinities and distribution throughout the Province. One new subspecies is named, *Canis latrans incolatus*, and for several forms there are reported substantial extensions of the known ranges.

As a general proposition I think that the mammals of the interior of British Columbia may be described, as here indicated, in terms of two partly overlapping faunas. There is a population that composes the northern periphery of a Great Basin — Rocky Mountains assemblage, another population composing the western periphery of a subarctic-transcontinental population. The former extends in all purity north into southern British Columbia, in considerable numbers as far north as the Bowron Lake region, and it finds its northern limit (except for stragglers such as *Zapus princeps saltator*) at the rise of land immediately north of the Skeena Valley. The last mentioned assemblage of transcontinental forms, supplies most of the species of northern British Columbia south to the Skeena drainage, with stragglers such as *Zapus hudsonius tenellus* extending somewhat farther. The partial overlapping of these two faunas supplies suggestive subject matter in the study of distribution. It is, I think, the explanation of the frequent occurrence of two closely related animals over the same ground, such as the above-mentioned species of *Zapus*. There must have been many ecological adjustments that would merit investigation.

It seems paradoxical to say that thirty or forty years ago such a report from such a region would have carried a much stronger air of finality. There appeared at that period a rapid succession of descriptions of many species and subspecies, upon the basis of characters that could not at once be correlated, and with little or no understanding of the historical background to the situation. The result was a series of isolated forms, explicitly named but imperfectly understood. It remained for such studies as the one here reviewed to provide better understanding, and of late years some progress has been made in the case of the smaller species, as in the forms of *Zapus* in the present instance. There is, on the other hand, a realization of the inadequacy of data pertaining to many nominal forms that results in the tentative use of names and in the many qualified statements. This is especially true of the larger, more conspicuous mammals; for the timber wolf, as an example, we find *Canis lycaon* here used simply because it is the oldest of the many names that have

been published, and because no one can tell us just what these different names mean. The same may be said of the Woodland Caribou, of the Mountain Goat and of other species. The sort of research that is needed, difficult enough to pursue, is exemplified in Charles Sheldon's study of the Mountain Sheep of the northwest (in *The Wilderness of the Upper Yukon*). Sheldon made the facts clear enough in a peculiarly complicated situation, and he incidentally exposed the discomfiting limitations of our system of nomenclature.

In the naming of *Canis latrans incolatus* the author performs excellent service, exposing thereby the fallacy of the oft-repeated statement that the coyote is a new arrival in the northwest. This is a belief that is wide-spread over the northern country. I have heard it expressed by many individuals, but always by people who seem themselves to have arrived in the country about the same time as the Coyote.—H. S. SWARTH, *California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco*.

EXCURSIONS OF THE OTTAWA FIELD-NATURALISTS' CLUB, 1935

- MAY 4—McKay Lake and vicinity. Take Lindenlea O.E.R. car and meet at Acacia Avenue and Maple Lane at 3 p.m. Leader—Mr. Hoyes Lloyd and others.
- MAY 11—Val Tetreau. Take Hull E.R. car at Chateau Laurier at 2.30 p.m. and meet at Monument, foot of Main St.
- MAY 18—Fairy Lake. Take Hull E. R. car at Chateau Laurier for Wrightville and meet at Wrightville terminus at 3 p.m.
- MAY 25—Britannia. Take Britannia O.E.R. car and meet at terminus at 3 p.m.
- JUNE 8—Pink's Lake. This will be a bus excursion and will probably leave from the Gatineau Bus Co.'s terminal on George St. Full particulars will be announced on the Fairy Lake and Britannia excursions.
- JUNE 15—Black Rapids. This will be a boat trip, Dr. M. G. McElhinney having kindly placed his motor-boat, the Summertime, at the disposal of the Club for the day. Particulars as to time to be announced as above.

In the case of the last two excursions, the cost will be divided among those taking part, as in previous years.

W. H. Lanceley, Chairman, Excursions Committee, Phone R. 1196 J.
Peggy Whitehurst, Vice-Chairman, Phone Sh. 5532 W.



Swarth, Harry S. 1935. "Mammals collected by T. T. and E. B. McCabe in the Bowron Lake region of British Columbia, by E. Raymond Hall [Review]." *The Canadian field-naturalist* 49(4), 77–78. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.339810>.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/89293>

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.339810>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/339810>

Holding Institution

Harvard University, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Ernst Mayr Library

Sponsored by

Harvard University, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Ernst Mayr Library

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: In copyright. Digitized with the permission of the rights holder.

Rights Holder: Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

License: <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/>

Rights: <https://biodiversitylibrary.org/permissions>

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.