

NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

WOOD TURTLE FROM ONTARIO.—About May 1st, 1933, I received from Mr. Elwood Campbell of Clinton, Huron County, two specimens of the wood turtle (*Clemmys insculpta* (Le Conte)) which he had collected in the vicinity of Clinton. One of these was given to the Royal Ontario Museum of Zoology and the other retained at the Ontario Agricultural College. The publication of this brief note appears to be warranted by the scantiness of previously published information on the occurrence of this turtle in Ontario.—W. E. HEMING, *Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, Ontario.*

ANOTHER WOOD TURTLE RECORD FROM ONTARIO.—During the summer of 1934 I followed up the discovery of the wood turtle near Clinton, Ontario, by visiting the vicinity where the specimens reported by Mr. Heming had been found. On July 26, 1934, in company with Mr. Elwood Campbell, and my nephew D'Arcy LeRay, I visited the farm of Mr. Fred Hopkins, Holmesville, near Clinton, Huron County. During the evening of that day, Mr. Campbell found two specimens under the roots of scrub willows near a small stream. The next morning D'Arcy LeRay and I each found one. In both cases, the individual was sunning itself on a mass of debris at the side of the stream.—W. J. LERAY, *Department of Biology, University of Toronto.*

THE OPOSSUM IN KENT COUNTY, ONTARIO.—A fine female opossum (*Didelphis virginiana*) was trapped on or about December 15th, 1934, on the farm of Mr. Hiram McLarty, township of Howard, Kent County, Ontario. It was caught in a burrow under a stump. This is the second specimen from this locality. The previous one

was taken by Mr. Bert E. Shanks, lot 16, concession 6, township of Harwich, Kent Co., about the middle of February, 1892. It was found under a partly uprooted tree by Mr. Shank's hound which worked all day trying to dislodge it. In the evening Mr. Shanks assisted the hound and they succeeded in capturing it. The opossum is believed to have been in hibernation. The snow was quite deep at the time and as Mr. Shanks was cutting logs, he passed the place where the opossum was found every day and no tracks had been seen at any time. This latter specimen is now in the Royal Ontario Museum of Zoology.—J. H. SMITH, *Blenheim, Ontario.*

ANOTHER LEAST WEASEL SPECIMEN FROM ONTARIO.—During the summer of 1931, a flat "unmade" skin of the least weasel, (the form *Mustela rixosa rixosa*, assumed on geographic grounds) was presented to the field party of the Royal Ontario Museum of Zoology by Mr. Arthur Caron of Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. Mr. Caron informed the writer that this weasel was taken along the railway track at Tatnall, near Oba, Ontario, in late summer, 1929, by his brother. It is in the brown pelage.

This is the second inland Ontario specimen, the other, taken at Heaslip, Temiskaming District, has been recorded by Saunders, (*Trans. Royal Can. Inst.*, July, 1932). The earlier records are of specimens in the United States National Museum taken at "Fort Albany" and "Moose Factory" and were recorded by Bangs (*Proc. Biol. Soc. of Wash.*, Feb., 1896).

Seton, in his *Life Histories of Northern Animals* (p. 861) marks a record on his map of distribution which falls on the Minnesota-Ontario boundary line. The text, however, does not supplement this record with a specific locality statement.—L. L. SNYDER.

BOOK REVIEWS

AMERICAN BIRD BIOGRAPHIES; containing the complete life-histories of familiar birds written in autobiographical form by Dr. Arthur A. Allan, Professor of Ornithology in Cornell University, etc. With ten colour plates and ten wash-drawings by George Miksch Sutton and 190 photographs of birds in nature by the author. Comstock Publishing Company, Ithaca, New York, 1934. pp. 238, large 8vo. Price \$3.50 in the U.S.

Anything on birds from the pen of Dr. Allen is worth while and this volume demonstrates the rule. In the mass of popular nature literature put before (often foisted upon) the amateur public one can rely on his work being not only delightfully presented to the casual reader but as accurate in its substance as a heavily scientific treatise. The volume consists of a number of life histories of familiar and interesting birds that have previously been run

serially in *Bird-Lore*. The viewpoint of the bird is given sympathetically and directly without undue sentimentality or anthropomorphism. The author and publisher have performed a benefit to the nature student in bringing them together in this convenient and admirable form. Dr. Allen is an expert with the camera and the numerous half-tone reproductions of his photographic work give many charming and intimate views of the birds at home in nature.

The plates in both wash and colour by Dr. Sutton corroborate our growing impression that he is a bird artist to be reckoned with and is taking his place among the masters of that branch of art that America has so notably produced of late. This series is in some respects the best work that he has had published and shows the development of an attractive individuality. His birds are well detailed with good knowledge without being fussy, and show control of medium. They are particularly well modeled and distinctly three dimensioned. The backgrounds are broadly treated without distracting detail but richly coloured and throw out the birds in harmonious contrast and very pleasing colour scheme. A feature that adds greatly to the general effect of the plates is the soft gray matting that surrounds them.

The volume is well bound in brown linen; the paper and printing are excellent. It is a book that is desirable in every bird-lover's

library and is particularly appropriate to gift seasons. — P. A. T.

SONGS OF WILD BIRDS. By *Albert R. Brand*, Associate in Ornithology, American Museum of Natural History. *Thomas Nelson and Sons, New York*. 1934. 8¾ x 7½. 91 pp. and two phonograph records. \$2.00.

Students of ornithology, both professional and amateur, have long recognized both the importance and the difficulty of learning how to identify an unseen bird by its song or call. The appearance of this book should do much to shorten the years necessary to acquire proficiency in this fascinating but often disheartening pursuit. A day or so ago, I played the records over for the benefit of the most severe critic available. — the family cat, whose interest was keen and immediate. He seemed to think the various thrushes most realistic, but was less taken with the cry of the Whip-poor-Will, though I thought it one of the best. Mr. Brand's success in recording these songs by means of specially contrived microphones and other elaborate and expensive equipment must be as great a satisfaction to him as it is to his many friends who have watched his progress with interest. The future volumes which we are promised will be awaited with keen anticipation. — D. L.

AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION MEETING IN TORONTO

At the invitation of the Royal Ontario Museum, the American Ornithologists' Union will hold its next annual meeting in Toronto from October 21 to 25, inclusive. Headquarters will be in the Royal York, a splendid hotel where rates of \$3.00 per day for single rooms and \$5.00 per day for double rooms, European plan, have been arranged.

Public sessions for the reading of papers commence on Tuesday, October 22. This is the most important feature of A.O.U. meetings. Ornithologists from all over North America will be present and matters pertaining to birds will be discussed by the most eminent authorities of the continent. Canadian bird-students should plan now to attend the Toronto meeting and take advantage of the opportunity to hear and make the acquaintance of the ornithologists of Canada and the United States. Topics of popular as well as technical interest will appear on the programme.

On Friday, October 24, the meeting will conclude with a field day at Hamilton, the former home of Thomas McIlwraith, a founder of the A.O.U. The Dundas Sanctuary will be inspected and an opportunity to see the congregation of wild fowl on Burlington Bay will be afforded.



Taverner, P. A. 1935. "American Bird Biographies, by Arthur A. Allan." *The Canadian field-naturalist* 49(6), 109–110. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.339823>.

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