the barbed awns of the seed. The position of the seed was such as not to interfere with either feeding or breathing.

How do the seeds reach the fish? Lorenz' account, as translated by Gudger, is that "through the breathing movements of the fishes the seed pods are disturbed so that they desert their radiate container and, vampire-like, sink their bearded points into the mouth and food openings of the fishes." Gudger theorizes that "the troutlet swimming around in the tank, no doubt stuck its head against the tip of the seed pod and the recurved hooks fastened themselves in the tender skin."

I asked Mr. Wells to make further observations during another season and he has written me under date of October 28, 1934, as follows:

"This summer I was watching for the plant and found little sign of it until it came into bloom in the month of September. At this time the weed was springing up into bloom all around my trout ponds. Seeds form and ripen and drop during October and for some time following.

"When the plant was blooming I kept pulling any that grew along the pond edges and have had no loss of trout fingerlings in the ponds this year.

"I scattered a few seeds of this weed on the water of a trough in which I have about 100 late fingerlings (1¾ in. long). Almost immediately two of the fish struck at seeds and were caught by the burr clinging to the nose and upper jaw. The burrs are clinging there still and remain until the fish dies of starvation or fungus setting in."

These very precise observations demonstrate clearly that the fish strikes at the seed as food and impales itself on the awns. The seed of the bur marigold, sticktight, beggar tick, or wild sunflower, as it is variously named, is truly a natural fish hook, although the awns of the seed with their many backwardly directed barbs might more appropriately be called minute spears. The young fish take the seed in the same way that large trout and salmon take the artificial dry fly, so much used by anglers. It should be noted that Mr. Wel's considers that these seeds are taken only by fish of a certain size, namely from 1¼ to 3 inches in length.

The conclusion of Lorenz can scarcely be improved. "In the light of this knowledge, the extermination of *Bidens cernua* is to be recommended to every fish culturist or pond owner."

REFERENCES

ANONYMOUS. Barbed plant seeds bring trout death. *Fisher. News Bull.*, vol. V. No. 50. December, 1933.

GUDGER, E. W. A young rainbow trout (*Salmo irideus*) with a "horn" (the achene of *Bidens cernua*) on its head. *Amer. Mus. Novit.*, 465, pp. 1-5. March, 1931.

LORENS, O. Ein Fischverderber (*Bidens cernua*) aus dem Pflanzenreich. *Oesterreich.-Ungarn Fischer.* Zeit. III, pp. 27-28. 1880.

A BADGER SPECIMEN FROM PORT DOVER, NORFOLK COUNTY, ONTARIO

By L. L. SNYDER

A NEWS ITEM in the local press of Toronto for November 24, 1934, gave an account of the capture of a badger [*Tavidea taxus*] near Port Dover, Ontario. The writer immediately communicated with a naturalist of the region, Mr. Munroe Landon, of Simcoe, Ontario, who replied that the report was correct and gave further details. He was unable to find that anyone in the region had kept a captive specimen. A complete account of the capture has been related by Mr. William Pursley who had secured the animal and has forwarded the pelt to the Royal Ontario Museum of Zoology, Toronto. Mr. Pursley writes,

"I caught him on November 5th, 1934, on my farm about three miles west of Port Dover along the fence in an open field about one half-mile away from any woods. While ploughing I noticed my dog along the fence and thought he had something. The badger had been digging in a groundhog's hole and the dog was worrying him so that he could not dig. I struck the animal with a club and the one blow killed him. I did not weigh him but I thought he would weigh between forty-five and fifty pounds as he was very fat."

In the *Journal of Mammalogy* for May, 1934, E. L. Moseley gives an account of the "Increase of Badgers in Northwestern Ohio". He states

that "I now have data for nearly seventy badgers caught or killed in ten counties of northwestern Ohio. About half of these badgers were found in the last six years". A letter from Dr. Lee R. Dice, Curator of Mammals, University of Michigan, states that "According to Mr. N. A. Wood, a few badgers were found in southern Michigan when the first settlers arrived here over a hundred years ago. At the present time badgers are thinly distributed over the whole state. They probably have increased somewhat since the clearing of the forest. They occur not only in open fields, but also in open stands of timber".

Saunders (*Trans. Royal Can. Inst. Vol.* 18, *Part* 2, *p.* 286) has recorded an Ontario specimen of badger taken at Grand Bend, Ontario, late in the 1890's. This record indicates the early presence of the species in southern Ontario and suggests the possibility that badgers may have persisted in this part of the province. If this seems unlikely in view of the complete settlement of the region and the absence of reports, there is still another possibility. The information given in the foregoing paragraph which relates to Ohio and Michigan suggests that these areas are possible sources of the recent badger specimen.

GREAT MIGRATION OF SNOW GEESE IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD OF MEAFORD, ONTARIO

By L. H. BEAMER, Meaford, Ontario

BOTH SNOW GEESE [*Chen hyperborea*] and Blue Geese [*Chen caerulescens*] have been seen several times near Meaford and Owen Sound in recent years, so that members of the Meaford Natural History Club were not surprised to learn that white geese had been seen on October 16 near the Clay Banks which are about three miles south-east of the town along the shore. This flock numbered about one hundred and included about thirty white geese.

This flock or one like it stayed in the neighbourhood till October 27. On this Saturday a gale blew from the North and continued for two days but decreased in intensity. After 11 o'clock at night large flocks of geese were heard over the town, some settling in the harbour and others passing over the town towards the interior.

On Sunday morning hundreds of these geese were seen along the Clay Banks resting on the land. From the description these flocks included both Blue and Snow Geese and numbered hundreds, possibly over a thousand. On the evening of the same day, hundreds of geese settled on the river at Walter's Falls.

On Monday the height of the migration was reached. Flocks varying from a single stray goose to one of five hundred were seen. These almost invariably flew towards the South or South-east.

Whenever the flocks flew low enough or the sun shone on them at the proper angle, the pure white individuals could be seen. These constituted anywhere from 25% of the flock to 100% of it.

In all about six thousand geese were seen, the majority of these being white.

From October 28th till November 1st other flocks were noted. On the latter date, a flock of one hundred white geese was seen at the Clay Banks.

The above observations were made by a number of people of the town of Meaford, who are interested in natural history. Many of them are hunters of considerable experience, who have seen both Blue or Snow Geese before. This year we have the skin of a splendid Snow Goose to add to the High School collection, while the Royal Ontario Museum has the wings, head and feet of a Blue Goose, as souvenirs of this migration.