

BOOK REVIEWS

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF THE RECENT MOLLUSCA OF NEWFOUNDLAND.—*Annals of the Carnegie Museum* xxviii: 53-75; 1940: By Stanley Truman Brooks and Betty Watts Brooks.

Many years ago a snail, *Helix* (now *Cepaea*) *hortensis* (Mull), a common species of the gardens and woods of England and western Europe was first reported from northeastern North America. Later as it was discovered at other points in the New England States, in Newfoundland and eastern Canada, speculation concerning the origin of such colonies became common among naturalists. Scharff, like certain others, believed the species to be aboriginal with us and used it as a prop for his theory of an Atlantic land bridge. In contrast, other naturalists attributed the origin of the species to commerce, not absolving even the Vikings.

Recently Drs. S. T. and B. W. Brooks of the Carnegie Museum of Pittsburgh have adduced much more evidence bearing on this matter. They found 67 different forms (*i.e.* species and varieties) of land and fresh-water molluscs in Newfoundland. Of this number, 12 are holarctic or circumboreal, 16 are "western European", which includes Greenland and Iceland, in affinity while the remaining 39 are North American. The 16 European species include: *H. hortensis*; 6 slugs of the genera *Arion* and *Limax*; *Vertigo alpestris*; a single *Succinea* and only two aquatic species, a snail *Radix pereger lacustris* and the well-known pearly mussel *Margaritana margaritifera*. All of these just mentioned occurred predominantly in the eastern part of the island in remote spots rarely touched by man. Accordingly they must be considered native to the region. The western portion of the great island was populated in large measure by molluscs of North American origin.

While the distributional data brought forward in this paper are very striking, their full significance cannot be appreciated at present. Many more similar investigations not only of the recent fauna but also of the Pleistocene are needed in Canada before the time of migration and route of dispersion of the molluscs of Newfoundland, or elsewhere, can be stated. The study of certain other slow-moving animals may yield pertinent evidence. For example the earthworms; Stephenson, in his elaborate monograph of the Oligochaeta, states there are no terrestrial species native to Canada, our known representatives being wholly introduced. However, the findings of

the Brooks in the matter of land snails suggest to this reviewer that a search in eastern Newfoundland might yield some evidence of endemic earthworms. To return to the original subject, our authors believe, first, that the inland molluscs reached Newfoundland sometime before the Strait of Belle Isle and Bay of St. Lawrence were formed in the late Pleistocene, and second, that no total or fatal glaciation, especially of eastern Newfoundland, has occurred since that event.

Mr. and Mrs. Brooks are to be congratulated on their valuable and stimulating contribution to the natural history of British North America.—J.O.

BREEDING BIRDS OF THE REGION OF THUNDER BAY, LAKE SUPERIOR, ONTARIO. By L. S. Dear, *Trans. Royal Canadian Inst.* No. 40, xxiii 119-143, 1940.

The region north of Lake Superior and from Georgian Bay to the Manitoban line was for long a zoological *terra incognita* from which we had little more than stray scraps of information. Of late years, however, we have had a succession of valuable detailed reports that are gradually filling out the blanks in the picture. The latest is the above covering a critical area near the meeting place of eastern and western influences. It is based upon more or less continuous observations covering thirty years and, though such observations can never be absolutely complete, it presents what is undoubtedly a solid basic breeding list for the locality. It lists 144 species, in most cases well supported by actual nestings or by data upon which they can be confidently assumed. It has every evidence of careful discrimination and accurate observations. The only criticism the reviewer would make is one general to common practice. While trinomials are freely used, except in one or two cases, there is no indication as to whether they are original verifications or the acceptance of conventional assumption. In the one case they would be valuable substantiating or correcting evidence, on the other they are scientifically worthless, merely rubber-stamping concepts that should be under test. However, disregarding the sub-specific presentations this is an important and admirable paper.—P.A.T.

FOLIAGE INSECTS OF SPRUCE IN CANADA. By A. W. A. Brown, *Division of Entomology, Science Service, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa,*



Taverner, P. A. 1941. "Breeding Birds of the Region of Thunder Bay, Lake Superior, Ontario, by L. S. Dove [Review]." *The Canadian field-naturalist* 55(9), 139–139. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.340348>.

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