

The skin and skull of the present specimen were sent to Dr. A. L. Rand of the National Museum of Canada, Ottawa, for identification; the determination received was *Mustela frenata occisor* (Bangs). Dr. Rand's notes on the specimen are as follows: "Length, stretched skin, 474 mm.; skin on tail, 130 mm.; black brush or pencil, over all 75 mm.; main part, 50 mm.; black pencil has a few long straggling hairs in tip, which grades into the white of the rest of the tail. The skull is moderately old, with a moderate sagittal crest, and the greatest length of 51 mm.; and mastoid breadth of 23.5 mm.". The animal was a male. Dr. Rand referred the specimen to *M. f. occisor* on the basis of the long black pencil compared with southern Ontario specimens.

This specimen (which is No. 496 in the Brown Collection) is apparently the first for New Brunswick and is the second Canadian specimen. Anderson (2) records a specimen from Kamouraska, Kamouraska County, P.Q., taken by W. Labrie on December 7, 1943.

The writer is indebted to Mr. Lloyd Bailey from whom the skin and skull were obtained, to Dr. Rand for the determination of the specimen and to Dr. Morris for permission to refer to his unpublished paper.

### Literature Cited

- (1) Morris, R. F. — The Land Mammals of New Brunswick. (Unpublished paper accepted for publication in Journ. of Mammalogy).
- (2) Anderson, R. M., 1946 — Catalogue of Canadian Recent Mammals. Nat. Mus. of Canada, Bull. No. 102, Biol. Ser. No. 31.

— N. R. BROWN, Faculty of Forestry, University of New Brunswick, Fredericton, N.B.

**Sharp-tailed Grouse again abundant at Athabaska Delta.** — A few years ago sharp-tailed grouse (*Pedioecetes phasianellus*) were very scarce in the Athabasca Delta area (see Soper, 1942, Trans. Roy. Can. Inst., 24, Pt. 1., pp. 47-48).

In the spring of 1946 they had increased in numbers, and were quite numerous. In the fall, just after freeze-up, flocks of from 50 to 200 birds were seen. On October 28, between 3 and 4 P.M., immediately north of Fort Chipewyan, between 2 and 3 thousand birds were seen, made up of about twenty different flocks; these birds were flying northwest, possibly going to their roosting grounds for the night. — ANGUS GAVIN, Fort Chipewyan, Alberta.

## BOOK REVIEWS

**AN INSECT BOOK FOR THE POCKET.** By Edmund Sanders: 349 pages; 37 pages of coloured illustrations; many text figures. Oxford University Press, Toronto, price \$3.75.

This pocket-sized book, dedicated to the memory of Jean Henri Fabre (1823-1915) is excellently produced and full of useful knowledge. It is a discussion of the families of insects occurring in the British Isles, members of which exceed half an inch in length of body or one inch in wing-expanse. About 130 families are included. The characters of most families are given as well as information regarding habits and life-histories. In addition to discussions of the Orders of Insects, data are presented regarding arachnids, myriopods and crustacea. A bibliography includes a selected list of publications to which the reader is referred for fuller information.

Although the book is primarily for students resident in the British Isles, the data it contains will be found of value to entomologists

and others in Canada and elsewhere. The coloured illustrations are very good and should be of help in identifying the various families and in many cases the actual species.

Like other similar books published by the Oxford University Press, it is well printed, and should have a ready sale.

Unfortunately the author died on September 19, 1942, not living to see the result of his labours in print. — ARTHUR GIBSON.

**SOME CANADIAN FUR BEARERS.** By A. L. Rand, National Museum of Canada, Special Contribution No. 46-1, Department of Mines and Resources, Ottawa, 1946; pp. 20; price .10c.

This booklet contains a brief description of each of the Canadian fur-bearers, together with an excellent figure. It will fill the needs of schools and Government offices for an authoritative pamphlet on fur-bearing animals as nothing previously available has ever done. — C. H. D. CLARKE.





Gibson, Arthur. 1948. "An Insect Book for the Pocket, By Edmund Sanders [Review]." *The Canadian field-naturalist* 62(1), 44-44.

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