

REPORT OF THE ZOOLOGICAL BRANCH, 1904.

The leaders in Zoology have again to report that, while much useful work in this branch of biological science has been done by various members of the Club, there is little of such novelty or importance to record as to justify detailed notice in this annual report. The fact that Ornithology, Entomology and Conchology are dealt with in separate reports, precluding reference to them in the Zoological report, seriously confines the field, so far as important seasonal observations go, as the mammals, fishes, etc., offer themselves less readily to continuous study by naturalists resident in a city. Still the field is a most inviting and promising one, and, as pointed out in previous reports, there are many lines of work which are open to those desirous of adding to our stock of zoological knowledge.

The Hudson's Bay expedition which returned last fall, after fifteen months' exploration in the Arctic waters of Canada, made some interesting contributions to Dominion zoology.

In the Report of the Department of Marine and Fisheries just issued the following resumé is given of the preliminary account furnished by Mr. Andrew Halkett, naturalist on board the SS. "Neptune."

Mammals.—The mammals observed were limited to four orders, the Carnivora, the Rodentia, the Ruminantia, and the Cetacea; and embrace the Atlantic Walrus (*Odobanus rosmarus*), the Ringed Seal (*Pagomys fœtidus*), the Harp Seal (*Pagophilus groenlandicus*), the Hooded Seal (*Crystophora cristata*), the Polar Bear (*Thalartos maritimus*), the Barren-ground Wolf (*Canis albus*), the Esquimo Dog (*Canis familiaris borealis*), the Arctic Fox, (*Vulpes lagopus*), the Polar Hare (*Lepus arcticus*), certain small rodents, such as Marmots and Lemmings, the Musk Ox (*Ovibos moschatus*), the Barren-ground Caribou (*Rangifer arcticus*), the Right Whale (*Balæna mysticetus*), and the Beluga or White Whale (*Delphinapterus catadon*).

Specimens of the skins of several of the mammals, suitable for mounting, were preserved, with a series of skulls, bones, teeth, etc.

Birds.—The skins of about thirty species of birds, embracing over one hundred specimens, were preserved; these include, among others, the Lapland Longspur (*Calcarius lapponicus*), the Snow Bunting (*Passerina nivalis*), the Red Poll (*Acanthis linarius*), the American Raven (*Corvus corax principalis*), the Horned or Shore Lark (*Octocoris alpestris*), birds of prey, various shore birds, including the Red Phalarope (*Crymophilus fulicarius*), the Whistling Swan (*Olor columbianus*), Hutchin's Goose (*Branta canadensis hutcihsii*), the Snow Goose or Wavy (*Chen hyperborea*), the Eider Duck (*Somateria mollissima*), the King Eider (*S. spectabilis*), the Long-tailed Duck or Souwester (*Harelda hyemalis*), the Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisæa*), various gulls (*Laridæ*), Jægers (*Stercorarius*), the Murre or Brunnich's Guillemot, (*Uria lomvia*), the Sea Pigeon (*Cepphus mandti*), the Red-throated Diver (*Urinator lumme*), and the Black-throated Diver (*U. arcticus*).

Numerous birds' eggs, some of them in sets, a series of birds' nests and avian anatomical preparations were also collected.

Various other species of birds were observed, such as the American Titlark (*Anthus pensilvanicus*), the Rock Ptarmigan (*Lagopus rupestris*), and the Dovekie (*Alle alle*).

Fishes.—The fishes observed, or collected, were various Salmonoids and Codfish (*Gadus callarius*), together with a specimen each of *Lycodes* and *Gymnelis* (dredged), two specimens each of two species of Blennioids (dredged), a Sand-launce (*Ammodytes*). Cottoids or Sculpins, a species of fresh water Stickleback (*Pygosteus*) and a Basking Shark (*Somniosus microcephalus*).

Specimens of various species of insects and of marine invertebrates were obtained, and, when determined, these will form a peculiarly interesting collection.

In this connection, it is appropriate to note that this season and during the last two or three seasons specimens of the Swingle-tail or Thresher Shark (*Alopias vulpes*, Gmelin), have been captured in the waters of eastern Nova Scotia. The species has been hitherto uncommon or unrecorded in these more northerly waters. The Great White Shark or Man eater (*Carcharodon carcharias*, Linn.,) has also been observed more frequently by the sealers in the Gulf of St. Lawrence in recent years. The Mackerel Shark (*Lamna cornubica*, Gmelin,) and the Sand Shark (*Carcharias*

littoralis, Mitchell) have been taken, and unprecedentedly vast schools of Picked Dog-fish or Bone-dogs (*Squalus acanthias*, Linn.) have infested the whole of our Atlantic coast from Gaspé southward. Can it be that our eastern shores are undergoing some change rendering the sea warmer and more attractive to these fishes which usually prefer more southerly habitats? The distribution of species is a most fascinating study and one to which our local zoologists might profitably devote more attention in the future.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

The Editor OTTAWA NATURALIST.

SIR,—I am making a special study of the Carices (sedges) of Ontario, and should be very grateful for the co-operation of all Ontario botanists.

It would greatly advance our knowledge, if everybody at all interested in plants would collect all the sedges they come across this summer and fall. They should collect the whole plant, roots and all in duplicate, place a label bearing a number, the locality, date of collection and collector's name in each paper, and press for about four days. This is all the drying sedges need.

At the end of the season mail one lot of duplicates to me (flat, not rolled) marked "Sample Post." I shall be glad to refund the postage and will, upon determining the specimens, send a list of the numbers with the name of the species against them.

One important point to be borne in mind about sedges is that they must be collected in full fruit, that is, when the achene (seed) is fully formed and hardening.

All specimens received will be fully credited to their collector in anything I publish on them.

Yours truly,

A. B. KLUGH.

Guelph, Ont.



Prince, Edward Ernest, Halkett, Andrew, and Odell, W S . 1905. "Report of the Zoological Branch, 1904." *The Ottawa naturalist* 19(3), 70–72.

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