

WAS THE INTRODUCTION OF THE MUSKRAT TO GRAHAM ISLAND, QUEEN CHARLOTTE ISLANDS, UNWISE?—In the spring of 1933, during an investigation of the seaward migrating fry of pink salmon, *Oncorhynchus gorbusha*, an occasion arose which drew the writer's attention rather forcibly to the question of the introduction of Muskrats to Graham Island. Apparently these animals were first brought to a place near New Massett by Mr. A. D. Hallett. Since he has left the area, no definite data can be found as to the exact time and number of the introduction. Fairly reliable information, however, shows that about fifteen individuals were released in late 1924 or early 1925. Since that year other persons have made introductions in a purely private capacity. About the latter it is difficult to obtain specific details. The important feature in any event is that from comparatively small beginnings, the species has spread widely and increased greatly in numbers.

On the night of April 25, the men in charge of the fence which had been established by the Biological Board of Canada for the enumeration of pink salmon fry, reported that a Muskrat made five or six sallies from beneath the river bank to the fence, rested against the screens and ate ravenously of the small fish. This behaviour was continued almost every night for several weeks in spite of the efforts which were made to frighten the animals away.

Our surprise was great that these animals should have spread in such a comparatively short time over rough country at least thirty miles from the nearest point of introduction known to us. That they should resort to fry as a regular article of diet was interesting in that it showed that unwittingly another name had been added in this area to the list of salmon enemies which was already long.

It might be noted as well that reliable reports have been forthcoming of damage to dykes in the Tlell River area. These structures were raised by the farmers to prevent inundation of their meadows by salt water.

In view of the observations reported herein, the question naturally arises as to whether the introduction of Muskrats to this new area was wise. Perhaps if the behaviour reported is general throughout the new environment, the revenue received from the exploitation of the species for its pelts, will not compensate for the damage done in the various respects. —A. L. PRITCHARD, *Pacific Biological Station, Nanaimo, British Columbia.*

AN ESCAPED RED-BREASTED GOOSE, *Bernicla ruficollis* FROM JAMES BAY.—An interesting specimen came in to the National Museum of Canada this summer (1933), forwarded by Corporal E. S. Covell of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, in the shape of a high plumaged Red-breasted Goose, one of two, reported as male and female, taken about May 30, near Moosonee (né Moose Factory) at the bottom of James Bay, Ontario. From a "record" standpoint a disappointment lay in the fact that upon its leg was a numbered aluminium band asserting that it came from the Kellogg Bird Sanctuary, Augusta, Michigan. On inquiry at the Sanctuary it appears that it cannot be determined just when these birds escaped from the enforced tenancy of their Michigan home to wander freely over the wilds of the continent but they were known to have remained there at least until the April previous to capture and had enjoyed something over a month of freedom.

The bird received was in perfect plumage with feathers unbroken, unworn and clean, without apparent trace of domestication and seemed to be a perfectly normal, healthy wild bird. If it had not been for the band on the leg this specimen would certainly have been considered as basis for an addition to the American bird-list.—P. A. TAVERNER, *National Museum of Canada, Ottawa.*

THE WHITE-TAILED JACK RABBIT IN MANITOBA. — The Royal Ontario Museum of Zoology has received from Mr. Sam Waller of Gypsumville, near Lake St. Martin, Manitoba, a specimen of the White-tailed Hare, *Lepus townsendii campanius* Hollister. Mr. Waller reports that these animals have been working their way northward during the last few years. About three years ago they were reported at Fairlord, twenty-two miles south of Gypsumville and this year appeared in the latter area. In January, 1934, they had reached a few miles north of the latter place.—J. R. DYMOND.

BLACK CRAPPIES IN BRITISH COLUMBIA. —The present record of *Pomoxis sparoides* (Lacépède) from Hatzic Lake, a backwater of the Fraser River near Mission, is believed to be the first from British Columbia. On June 14, 1933, three specimens were submitted to the Pacific Biological



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