

5. A second snake, collected on July 31 from beneath a rock 1 yard. from shore, was put in a collecting jar and 10 mins. later disgorged two crayfish both with a body length of about 4 cm. and with their complement of appendages complete. The snake was measured (total length — 37.3 cm.; tail length — 9.6 cm.) and its stomach, midgut and hindgut were dissected out separately. In the stomach was a legless body of a crayfish, about 4 cm. long, with the anterior end considerably digested and in the midgut were two pereopods and two antennal glands, probably parts of the crayfish found in the stomach. The hindgut was empty. It is thus evident that this snake was in the process of digesting three crayfish when captured.

The presence of crayfish in the diet of the queen snakes caught at London is in accord with the conclusions of several authors e.g. Pope, C.H. (1944, *Amphibians and Reptiles of the Chicago Area*, Chicago Nat. Hist. Mus., p. 193), Schmidt, K.P. and D.D. Davis (1941, *Field Book of Snakes of the United States and Canada*, G.P. Putnam's Sons, New York, p. 213) and Logier, E.B.S. (*op. cit.*, p. 28) who attest that crayfish form the bulk of the diet of this snake.

The five snakes showed the typical color pattern of the species with the black median dorsal line and the two lines on the fifth row of scales distinct and the two dusky bands on the mid-ventral region present and separate. — W.W. JUDD, *Department of Zoology, University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario*.

a **Ruff and White Pelican at Fort Severn.** — While on a visit to Fort Severn on June 12, 1955, the writer was given a specimen of a ruff, *Philomachus pugnax* (Linne), by Mr. R. Still, manager of the Hudson's Bay Company Post. The bird had been shot by an Indian a few days earlier on the shore of the Severn River, just below the village. He killed it because he did not know what it was, never having seen one before. The bird was a male in full breeding plumage having a ruff, chesnut in colour, with black bars. The testes were enlarged. The skin is now in the Royal Ontario Museum of Zoology and Palaeontology.

Two other specimens have been collected in Ontario. J.A. Morden and W.E. Saunders (*Canadian Sportsman and Naturalist*, Vol. 3,

No. 6. June 1883) recorded a male killed on the bay at Toronto in the spring of 1882. This specimen was in the possession of a Mr. Young of Toronto, but is now lost. The other specimen, also a male, was shot by a Mr. Wightman in 1887 at the Scarborough Bluffs near Toronto. This specimen is preserved in the Royal Ontario Museum of Zoology and Palaeontology.

The chief of the Severn Indian band, Eneas Thomas, gave the writer the mummified head and cleaned radius and ulna of a White Pelican, *Pelecanus erythrorhynchos* Gmelin. He had found the decomposing carcass of the bird on June 8, 1955, on the bank of the Severn River a short way upstream from the Post. The Severn Indians said they had never seen a pelican before.

The head of this bird and pictures were shown to the Indians at some of the posts in the central and western part of the Patricia portion of Ontario. While none of them were able to give the Cree name for a pelican (cha'chukew of the Plains Cree) some did say that they had occasionally seen or shot this bird. Johnny Yesno of Fort Hope said that two were shot there about 1924. He added that he had dropped two large suckers down the dead bird's throat to see how big a fish it could handle. David Baxter from Ogoki said he had seen two killed at English River many years ago.

Manning (*Birds of the west James Bay and southern Hudson Bay coasts*, Nat. Mus. Canada, Bull. 125, 1952) records four specimens from the vicinity of Hudson Bay.

These were all taken prior to 1859 and two were used by Gmelin in his description of the species in 1789. Manning suggests that these specimens may have been taken inland.

Baillie (*Canadian Field-Naturalist*, Vol. 53, No. 9, pp. 130-131, 1939) records the breeding of pelicans on Dream Island near Massacre Island in the Ontario portion of the Lake of the Woods. There have been some scattered sight records from northern Ontario in recent years which seem to indicate that the bird wanders frequently into the Province. — H. G. LUMSDEN, *Ontario Dept. of Lands and Forests, Maple, Ont.*

The Laysan Albatross off the British Columbia Coast. — The Laysan Albatross (*Diomedea immutabilis*) is not mentioned in the authoritative "Review of the Bird Fauna of



Lumsden, H G. 1955. "Ruff and White Pelican at Fort Severn." *The Canadian field-naturalist* 69(4), 168–168. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.341624>.

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