

appearance below Latchford, persisting in considerable numbers down stream at least as far as our last river camp below Poigan Rapids. I realize that none of this evidence is strictly conclusive as regards the segregation of the two zones under discussion, but it does point to a very real, though subtle infusion of the Transition. An observer with more time at his command than I had on this trip, should certainly discover further and more minute distinctions between these two interesting and adjoining regions.

### THE MAMMALS

*Martes pennanti* (Erxleben). FISHER.—The only clue I have of the occurrence of this species is that of a well-marked trail which I saw at

Ababika Lake on Sept. 2. The foot impressions were very distinct in the wet sand of the beach and therefore easily deciphered.

*Mustela vison* Schreber. MINK.—Presence of the mink was noted at all points enumerated below for muskrat. Their trails were particularly common on the mud beaches above Sucker Gut Falls, and along the river which flows into the lake of the same name from a north-westerly direction. The muddy bottom, in parts, of Sucker Gut Lake is a most prolific breeding ground of the freshwater clam, and all along the shores at intervals we noticed various-sized piles of their empty shells which signified the presence of mink and rat.

(To be concluded in the January issue)

### NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

#### NOTES ON A SASKATCHEWAN MUSKRAT COLONY.

—In August last, two parent muskrats and their four half-grown young went overland into a sedgy pond of about an acre in extent and two feet in depth in the centre. After two days a burrow was obtained in the state of commencement. A trench was dug from the deepest part of the pond straight toward the shore with a very slight incline. The width of the trench was fourteen inches and the earth piled at the end of the trench. All weeds were removed from the deepest part of the water for a radius of thirty feet. The trench gradually deepened until at the water line of the pond it was twenty-eight inches in depth and fourteen inches in width.

In September the main trench was driven a distance of one hundred and seven feet. At the extreme end a large nest the size of a bushel measure was made three feet under the ground under the roots of a willow. This nest was made of soft dry grass and was completed before the first of October. The burrow was raised three inches above water level at the entrance, and the entrance was thirty feet inland from the water line of the pond shore. That is, there was an open drain from the pond edge to the place where the ground closed over the burrow. Where the burrow proper started under the hill the water measured eighteen inches in depth.

The three-inch air space at the entrance of the burrow gradually increased until there was no water in the burrow at a distance of forty feet from the entrance. The burrow at the highest water mark was fourteen inches high and nine inches wide. The extra height is used in the spring when the ponds are flooded. The colony can use the burrow without being pressed for air even in case of abnormal floods.

From the first to the twentieth of October four tunnels eight inches in depth were driven above

the high water level parallel with the main tunnel and branching from it. Digging into these four tunnels showed that they averaged a length of twelve feet or forty-eight feet in all. These tunnels were packed with tender bulrush roots, sedges, mints, young grass and reeds. The bulk of the store was white and crisp, and very tightly packed. Each of these tunnels was plugged with clay at the junction with the main tunnel to exclude air. Wherever the tunnel tapped a cattle track or other hole the same was tightly plugged and the tunnel continued. The young muskrats aided the parents by carrying earth from the tunnel and also in bringing in the food store. These six small animals must have carried several hundred pounds of earth and food in the last two months. As the pond is very shallow and will freeze to the bottom before Christmas I am going to find out what these creatures will do when the supply fails.—THOMAS D. CARTER.

PRAIRIE WARBLER, *Dendroica discolor*.—It would appear from the literature on the Prairie Warbler that this bird is a casual visitor in Ontario. My first record was made during a visit to the southern portion of Georgian Bay, known as Nattawasaga Bay. While walking along the shore (August 1, 1914) I saw four Warblers high up in a pine and on examining them through my glasses I found them to be the Prairie. On revisiting this spot in 1921, from June until September, I had occasion to study these birds. They were localized and followed the shore line for about fifteen miles, never further than two hundred yards inland. This locality was composed of a few scattered oak, white and norway pines, numerous ground juniper, a typical jack pine ridge. In June the male could be heard singing his characteristic song. These Warblers next to the Myrtle, are the commonest in this





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