

mother bird turned in her biological necessity, to the first suitable quarters available.

It seems reasonable to assume that in the struggle which inevitably ensued between the Thrush and her smaller adversary, the Warbler was victorious, as we found her apparently in undisputed possession.—R. W. TUFTS.

THE FOLLOWING FROM MY NOTEBOOK may be of interest to readers of *The Field-Naturalist*.

May 19, 1924.—I saw a female Redpoll (*Acanthis linaria*) feeding three young near our garden to-day.

The female had black chin patch—red cap very dull—whole plumage darker than in winter.

Young have no chin patch, but a sort of necklace of dark spots—underparts dull yellowish brown, spotted with darker—rump very similar.

They were all busy picking up weed seeds on the ground.

The female fed them all by regurgitation.

Call notes same as in winter.

May 24th.—Saw the young Redpolls again to-day.

Redpolls were particularly plentiful in our district all the winter of 1923-24.

I have note of a small party of females (no red breasts) on April 27th, 1924.—C. H. SNELL, Red Deer, Alta.

Phenacomys Ungava.—This year I have had the great luck to take two specimens of *Phenacomys*, which are probably *Ungava*, and the exceeding rarity of this genus in the East, would seem to make the specimen worth recording.

On October 5, 1925, I stopped at Franz, the junction point of the Algoma Central and the C.P. Ry., for the purpose of going down the A.C. Ry., to see the noted scenery on its course. As I had the time available, I set a line of mouse traps, and was startled and delighted to find a *Phenacomys* in my traps in the morning. I had intended going all the way down to the Sault and taking a train from there to Toronto, but when I found this specimen, I immediately decided to travel only part way to the Sault and come back again, that I might give the traps another opportunity, and, on the morning of the 7th, I was again delighted to find another specimen. These little mammals are of a lighter color than *Microtus* with an orange suffusion around the nose and they measure respectively: length 123 and 127 mm., tail 27 and 34; hindfoot 17 and 19.

One of these was submitted to Mr. A. B. Howell, of the National Museum, Washington, and he reports that it is a subadult and therefore its characters are possibly not fixed. Mr. Howell says: "At present the only thing to say is that there are no grounds for recognizing *celatus* and

latimanus as distinct from *ungava*. and as we can't be sure of just what the characters of the latter are until at least several near-topotypes have been taken, we can but call everything north of the St. Lawrence and the lakes (except Labrador skins) "*ungava*".

The total number of specimens of *Phenacomys* in north-eastern America seems to be eight, so that the species is well worthy of a diligent hunt, on the part of students of mammals.—W. E. SAUNDERS.

OCCURRENCE OF THE BITTERN AND CUCKOO IN SOUTH-WESTERN SASKATCHEWAN.—There are two birds, the American Bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*) and the Black-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*), that at one time were uncommon in this locality, then for a short period became common, and now have disappeared once more. The Bittern, when I first came to this district twenty-four years ago, might be met with occasionally along the streams or in the sloughs. At that time the beaver were starting to "come back" as a result of closer protection, after having been almost exterminated in several places.

By about the year 1908, they were fully re-established, every watercourse having its succession of dams which backed the water out, flooding the willow bush and the lower meadow land. These conditions apparently suited the Bittern, which increased in numbers proportionately, and not only was the well known "pumping" note frequently heard, but the bird itself also became a familiar figure, standing in the water or walking along its edge. In the spring of 1918, the close time for beaver was suspended and once more wholesale destruction took place. Since then the Bittern has disappeared also, and the writer has not seen or heard one for three years. But the indomitable beaver will be plentiful within the next three or four years, at the present rate, and it will be interesting to note whether or not the bittern will follow suit.

The writer saw his first Cuckoo in 1912. As is well known, the Cuckoo is one of the few enemies of the tent caterpillar, a pest which multiplied exceedingly in this district, and, I believe, in many other parts, reaching its "peak" about 1923. That year Black-billed Cuckoos were almost abundant and there was evidence of several pairs nesting here.

Last summer, on the other hand, we had practically no caterpillars nor have there been, to my knowledge, any Cuckoos in the country.—L. B. POTTER, Eastend, Saskatchewan.

REMEDY FOR POISON IVY.—Some months ago there was quite an elaborate paper in *The Naturalist* regarding the treatment of Poison Ivy, and as I



Saunders, William Edwin. 1926. "Phenacomys ungava." *The Canadian field-naturalist* 40(1), 18–18. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.338603>.

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