

at Queen's University of the Federation of Ontario Naturalists on the King's birthday.

8. PUBLICATIONS. Mr. Hoyes Lloyd, Chairman of this Committee reported that *The Canadian Field-Naturalist* had been issued on schedule time throughout the year with a reduced number of pages. The Committee had sold a complete set of the Club's publications to the Province of Quebec for the use of the Zoological Society. This Committee has also prepared biographical articles on the lives of the late Norman Criddle, the late W. T. Macoun and the late M. O. Malte—three highly esteemed naturalists and valued members of Council—for publication in *The Canadian Field-Naturalist*.

9. FINANCE. As a result of the saving made by issuing the *Naturalist* with a reduced number of pages, the Club has been enabled to reach the close of the year with no apparent deficit.

10. INFORMATION SERVICE. The Information Service, of which Mr. A. LaRoque has been Chairman, has announced, through the columns of the *Naturalist*, the availability to amateurs of the resources at the command of the members of the Club.

11. DR. H. M. AMI SCRAP-BOOK — 1899, 1900, 1901. During the year this scrap-book was plac-

ed in the Public Archives of Canada, where the Dominion Archivist promised to have it put in a glass case, for consultation by students.

12. FLETCHER MEMORIAL FOUNTAIN. The Club drew to the attention of the Minister of Agriculture the fact that the inscription on this fountain at the Central Experimental Farm was growing dim. The Minister agreed not only to have the inscription cleaned, but to have the Fountain again put in working order.

13. SPECIAL COMMITTEE. The Special Financial Committee, of which Mr. Hoyes Lloyd is Convenor, has had an active year in advertising the merits of the Club.

14. COUNCIL. Your Council in retiring from office, desires to express its appreciation of the work done by members in the field of natural history generally, as well as in co-operation with Council; also to express its faith in a brighter future, as can be hoped for from our financial statement. To the incoming Council and Executive we turn over the task of administration with every hope for successful promotion of an enterprise now about to begin the 56th year of its history.

C. M. STERNBERG.

GRACE S. LEWIS.

President

Secretary

NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

THE MADEIRA PETREL, *Oceanodroma castro*—A NEW BIRD FOR CANADA.¹—The latter part of August, 1933, was notable for the terrific storm that swept the Atlantic and did incalculable damage along the eastern coast of the United States. This storm seemed to have originated in the eastern Atlantic in the neighbourhood of Madeira and the Azores and, sweeping westward, spent its force against the shores of this continent. Undoubtedly great numbers of pelagic birds were blown far from their normal ranges by the tempest. Reports have come in of various strange Petrels and Shearwaters found far inland in the days shortly after the occurrence and the list of North American birds has probably been increased by the first occurrence of several of these waifs.

Of course there is not the slightest chance of such deep sea species surviving inland or on fresh water. They are truly pelagic in habit and habitat and their home is the vast expanse of the salt seas. How often these disasters take

place it were hard to tell. Every once in a while some lone wanderer turns up far from its native habitat but the few that come to the attention of ornithology must be only an infinitesimal fraction of those that are blown to hostile surroundings and drop on weary wing to oblivion without informed observers being the wiser.

It was probably this storm that added at least one species to the Canadian list,—a Madeira Petrel, *Oceanodroma castro*, which was picked up living but helpless on the Rideau River within the city limits of Ottawa, on August 28th. The bird died in the night and was brought by some intelligent boys to the National Museum, where it now reposes. The boys thought that they had seen several similar birds fluttering about the river a day or so previous but though a search of the river and its shores was made immediately, no such birds could be found and no definite confirmatory evidence obtained.

The Madeira Petrel breeds on Madeira, the Salvages, Azores and Cape Verde Islands and is

¹ Published with the permission of the Director, National Museum of Canada Department of Mines, Ottawa.

usually confined to the eastern and southern Atlantic. There are casual individual records for the species in Pennsylvania, Indiana and the District of Columbia, all probably victims of similar meteorological disturbances. This specimen thus makes the fourth record of the species for North America and the first for Canada.—P. A. TAVERNER.

Microtus tetramerus ON VANCOUVER ISLAND, B.C.—During the summer of 1931 several interesting colonies of *Microtus tetramerus* were found on the west coast of Vancouver Island. Three of these were of particular interest.

The first colony was situated in a grassy glade on the outer reef off Chesterman Beach near Tofino. This reef is a rugged mass of rock about half a mile in length, and the width varying from a few feet to a couple of hundred yards. Clumps of spruce and other trees and bushes grow here and there and patches of grass and fern are in evidence where sufficient soil enables them to gain a foothold. The reef is entirely separated from the main island except for a sand bar half a mile in width which is bare only at low tide. These voles had chosen a sheltered situation in a thick growth of grass and hay amongst rocks and stunted spruce. Here and there were many runways diverging in every direction and while setting out the traps a young vole ran into one of these and was captured.

The following day, May 19th, the traps produced six voles, three adult females, two adult males and one juvenile female. On May 20th two more were taken as well as two *peromyscus*.

The other two colonies were on two small islands southwest of Meares Island. The larger of the two islands lies about a quarter of a mile from Meares Island, is very rocky and about an

eighth of an acre in extent. On it is a considerable growth of salal and stunted cedar and fir. A soft grass covers a large portion of the southerly end of the rock and in this grass are numerous deep, well worn runways running in every direction. This grass is apparently the mainstay of these voles and cuttings were everywhere in evidence.

At very low tide this small island can be reached from Knocken Island over a mud flat and Meares Island can be reached from Knocken Island in the same manner, but only at very low tide.

Another island lies about a mile further up Disappointment Inlet and its vegetation consists of salal, small firs and various weeds and grass. A small colony of *microti* lives on this small island and the runways through the thick grass were fresh and well worn. This island is entirely separated from the surrounding islands by deep water.

A resident of Tofino stated he had seen several colonies of these mice on different isolated rocky islands and had once captured one of these voles alive.

The isolated colonies of *Microtus tetramerus* offer the curious problem as to how these small rodents originally reached these out of the way places.

The specimens taken on Chesterman Beach reef showed signs of severe fighting and in a few hours they almost completely devoured a small bird which was unfortunately caught in one of these traps.

Mink were common about here and it is strange that the small *microtus* colony was not completely exterminated. One morning when examining the traps a large mink was seen running along the rocks close by and on being secured was found to be an old male weighing four and a quarter pounds.—KENNETH RACEY.

BOOK REVIEWS

BIRDS AND MAMMALS FROM THE KOOTENAY VALLEY, SOUTHEASTERN BRITISH COLUMBIA. By Joseph Mailliard, Curator emeritus Department of Ornithology and Mammalogy, California Academy of Science, Fourth Series, Volume 20, No. 8, January 8, 1932. San Francisco: Published by the Academy. pp. 269-290. Price 25 cents.

This very interesting paper by Joseph Mailliard gives the results of field work conducted by himself and Frank Tose, chief, and Russell Hendricks,

student assistant, Department of Exhibits, of the California Academy of Sciences, in the region around Creston, B.C., a few miles north of the British Columbia-Idaho International Boundary, from April 30 to June 5, 1928. Collections were made principally on the east side of the Kootenay River near Creston (altitude 1985 feet) and on benches at the foot of Purcell Range, but some collecting was done by Mr. Tose on the west side of the river at foot of Nelson Range from May 9 to 14, and at Kitchener (about 2435



Taverner, P. A. 1934. "The Madeira Petrel, *Oceanodroma castro* - A New Bird for Canada." *The Canadian field-naturalist* 48(1), 20-21.

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