

NOTES ON TWO RECENT ADDITIONS TO THE ZOOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS IN THE MUSEUM OF THE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF CANADA.

By J. F. WHITEAVES.

The additions are two specimens that were presented by the Rev. J. H. Keen, of Metlakatla, B.C., per Dr. James Fletcher, on the 24th of December, 1907. They are as follows:—

(1). *MICROTUS MACRURUS*, Merriam.

(*The Olympic Vole*).

"Parturiunt montes, nascitur ridiculus mus."

Skin of a female of this species. The animal was captured by Mr. Keen at or near Metlakatla, on the 28th of August, 1907.

Under the auspices of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Mr. Vernon Bailey has published a "Revision of American Voles of the Genus *Microtus*" in 1900, and Mr. David E. Lantz, "An Economic Study of Field Mice (Genus *Microtus*)" in 1907.

"Field mice, of the genus *Microtus*," writes Mr. Lantz, have "stout bodies, blunt, rounded muzzles, small eyes, and short ears—often completely concealed in the fur. The tail is short and hairy; the soles of the feet are naked or clothed with short hairs, and have five or six foot pads (plantar tubercles). The incisors are broad and not grooved.

"The molar teeth, in all members of the genus, like the incisors of all rodents, grow continuously throughout the life of the animal and do not develop roots. They are prismatic in form, and the crowns show triangular dentinal spaces surrounded by lines of harder enamel. These curious enamel patterns are of great importance in the classification of the animals, as they are but slightly affected by age and wear and are remarkably constant for each species.

"About 165 living species and subspecies of *Microtus* have been recognized (1904), of which about 78 are North American."

And of these 78, it may be added, about 30 are now known to occur in Canada. In the Museum of the Survey there are about 100 skins of Canadian voles or field mice of this genus, representing at least 10 species or subspecies, and including a fine series of skins of *M. Drummondii* from Alberta and British Columbia.

The "Olympic Vole" was first described by Dr. C. Hart Merriam, under the name *Microtus macrurus*, in the Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia for August, 1898. The English name proposed for it by Mr. Bailey in 1900, is intended to recall to the memory the circumstance that the specimens upon which the species was originally based, were collected at Lake Cushman, in the Olympic Mountains, State of Washington.

As its specific name implies, *M. macrurus* belongs to the "Longicaudus Group" of the genus, which, according to Mr. Bailey, is characterized by the "long tail and gray color."

(2). CERATORHINA MONOCERATA (Pallas) Cassin.

(*The Rhinoceros Auklet*).

"Rara avis in terris."

One egg, which is believed to be that of a bird of this species. This egg, Dr. Fletcher writes, was brought to Mr. Keen in June, 1907, by an English sailor, who keeps a lighthouse on Lucy Island, about 7 miles west of Metlakatla. At the same time he brought an auklet, which he said he had trapped at the mouth of the hole at the end of which he found the egg. Mr. Keen says: "I can answer for the correct identification of the bird, but have, of course, only the man's word that the egg is that of a rhinoceros auklet." The egg certainly agrees very well with Dr. Coues' description of that of *Ceratorhina*, which is as follows: "Egg single, colorless or nearly so, but more or less obscurely marked, as in *Lunda* and *Fratercula*; size, 2.70 x 1.80. The egg presented by Mr. Keen measures 2.70 x 1.75. Eggs of this species would appear to be rare in collections, as they are not listed or offered for sale in any egg dealer's catalogue that the writer has seen.

The rhinoceros auklet (formerly called also the unicorn auklet or horn-billed auklet) is the only known species of the genus *Ceratorhina*. One of the most marked peculiarities of birds of this genus is the horned bill, which is thus described by Coues:—"Bill smooth, base of upper mandible with a large upright horn, and under mandible with an accessory horny piece lying between its rami; this piece and the horn deciduous, when base of mandible covered with a soft cere." Coues also says that the species inhabits "both coasts and islands of the north Pacific to Lower California and Japan;" that it is "not specially Arctic;" and that it has bred as far south as the

Farallone Islands. Lord says that it has been "found in the Gulf of Georgia," and that it "breeds on the islands around Vancouver Island." R. Brown also says that it occurs on the "coasts of Vancouver Island."

This auklet belongs to the Alcidæ or Auk family, and to the subfamily Phaleridinæ, which includes the auklets, murrelets, and black guillemots. As Coues says, the "Phaleridinæ all belong to Pacific and Polar waters, excepting some species of *Cephus*."

Six species of auklet are recorded by Professor Macoun in his "Catalogue of Canadian Birds." In the Museum of the Survey five of these species are represented, either by mounted specimens or by eggs, and in two cases, by both. The rhinoceros auklet is represented in it only by the egg recently presented by Mr. Keen; and Cassin's auklet by a mounted specimen from Queen Charlotte Sound. The paroquet auklet is represented in it by two mounted specimens from St. Paul Island, Behring Sea; the crested auklet by two mounted specimens and one egg, from St. Paul Island; and the least auklet by three stuffed specimens and four eggs, from St. Paul Island.

COUNCIL MEETING.

The regular monthly Council Meeting for November was attended by the following members: The President, Mr. W. J. Wilson, Messrs. A. E. Attwood, A. Halkett, A. Gibson, J. M. Macoun, H. H. Pitts, E. E. Lemieux, and T. E. Clarke; Miss A. L. Matthews, Miss Q. Jackson, and Miss I. Ritchie.

Six persons were elected as ordinary members, viz.:

W. A. Johnston, M.A., B.Sc., Geological Survey.
 Chas. N. Robertson, Ottawa.
 J. Létourneau, Experimental Farm.
 R. F. Fleming, Normal School, Ottawa.
 John Blackhall, 45 Dewson St., Toronto.
 C. Camsell, B.A., Geological Survey.



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