

## REPORT OF THE ZOOLOGICAL BRANCH, 1901.

As has been frequently pointed out in previous reports of the Zoological Branch of the Club, it is difficult to present new matter annually in the field of local Zoology. Indeed it is hardly to be expected that many additions to the Vertebrate fauna, excepting in the lower orders, such as fishes, reptiles, &c., can be recorded in the Ottawa district. During the year, however, some most interesting facts have been placed on record by various members of the club, which are worthy of special notice.

These notes have been published in the OTTAWA NATURALIST, and include the following papers among others more particularly referred to below. "Rattlesnakes and Scorpions," by J. R. Anderson; "On the Oviposition of the Mud Turtle," by Mailes Cowley; and "Alligators and Turtles as Pets," by W. S. Odell. Mr. Odell has for some time been studying Rhizopods and will contribute a paper on them to an early number of THE NATURALIST.

Mr. Andrew Halkett has continued his diligent researches in various interesting directions. The most important study he has made, perhaps being observations on the remarkable Dipnoid *Protopterus annectens*, of which two specimens were received at the Fisheries Museum by the kindness of Prof. H. O. Forbes, of Liverpool, England, with whom Mr. Halkett had interesting interviews early last year. One of the specimens was consigned to Prof. Ramsay Wright, Toronto University, and both were in a state of hibernation inclosed in their curious clay capsules. Unfortunately, both proved to have not survived when the capsules were carefully dissolved in Ottawa and Toronto. Mr. Halkett published a detailed account of the specimen in the November number of the OTTAWA NATURALIST. Mr. Halkett has also recently secured quite a number of Bow-fin (*Amia calva*) and Gar-pike (*Lepidosteus*) from the Bay of Quinte, and preserved them in formaline, which prevents the disappearance of the natural colours of fishes. Both species present under these conditions a very marked colour pattern. Few naturalists, familiar only with museum specimens of these fishes preserved in alcohol, have any idea of their really striking coloration. A Sturgeon (*Accipenser*) 5 feet long was also



obtained by Mr. Halkett in the Detroit River, near Sandwich, Ont., as well as a curiously marked young specimen which shows many interesting features. In the drag seines used when these specimens were obtained, quite a fine series of Teleosteans was also obtained, including a small Channel Cat-fish (*Ictalurus punctatus*), Moon-eye (*Hiodon tergisus*), Doré (*Stizostedion vitreum*), Yellow Perch (*Perca flavescens*), Pike (*Esox lucius*), Cisco (*Coregonus artedii*), White-fish (*Coregonus clupeiformis*), Rock Bass (*Ambloplites rupestris*), and others. Two fine Blanding's Tortoises (*Emys meleagris*) from Belleville, and a Snapping Turtle (*Chelydra serpentina*), from Combermere, which measured 2 feet 3 inches in length, were obtained and exhibited by Mr. Halkett at the opening Conversazione of the Club. After being placed in the tanks at the Fisheries' Museum, Ottawa, the Turtle deposited a number of dull white spherical eggs resembling in many respects the eggs of a bird. They were almost perfectly globular, and the limy shell was of a yellowish white colour. Some were prepared for exhibition in the cases of the Museum. The turtle on examination was found to be infested externally with leeches (*Hirudo*) ; some of these on being placed in a vessel of fresh water, lived for many weeks, and a few were preserved in formaldehyde.

Recently Prof. Prince secured an interesting specimen of the Rat-fish or Chimæra (*Chimæra colliei*) from the Straits of Georgia, B. C., a full account of which species and of the peculiar egg produced by the fish, appeared in the OTTAWA NATURALIST some time ago. On the same occasion a quantity of Pacific Herring was obtained for the purpose of investigating a remarkable case of mortality in these fish near Nanaimo at the end of January. It is stated that the waters of the Straits off Nanaimo were covered for an extent of hundreds of acres with dead herring, lying 2 or 3 feet thick at the surface of the sea. Various theories have been advanced for this strange phenomenon, and no doubt a minute anatomical examination may afford light upon this problem.

It is appropriate in this place to refer to the appearance of a fasciculus of 62 pages, forming the first Biological Report from the Marine Scientific Station, founded by the Dominion Government upon the Atlantic coast. It embraces a series of seven papers all of scientific or practical interest ; but, as a review is to



appear shortly in the pages of the OTTAWA NATURALIST, it is not necessary to say more than express satisfaction at the issue of the first part (as a supplement to the Marine and Fisheries Department's Report) of Contributions to Canadian Biology. Dr. Whiteaves's invaluable Faunistic List for the Atlantic Waters of Canada formed an appropriate prelude to the appearance of the Biological papers referred to.

JOHN MACOUN.

W. S. ODELL.

E. E. PRINCE.

ANDREW HALKETT.

---

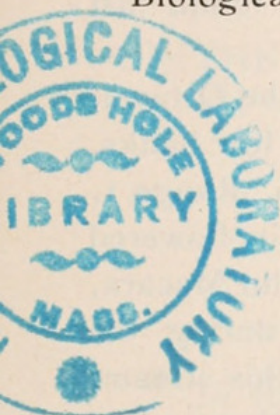
### BOTANICAL NOTES.

---

#### A DAY AT NORWAY BAY, P.Q.

On August 19th, Mr. R. B. Whyte and the writer spent a very enjoyable day at Norway Bay, Bristol, P.Q., some fifty miles up the Ottawa river on the Quebec side. Many interesting plants were observed, some of which were rare, or as yet unrecorded, in the Ottawa district.

At Norway Bay there is a fine sandy beach which must be over a mile in length; as the water deepens very gradually, it is an excellent place for children for playing and bathing, and parents are beginning to find this out. The trees, which grow well down to the beach, are principally red and white pine, though Banksian pine, balsam, white spruce, red maple, mossy-cup oak, and paper birch are common species. A large number of species of shrubs were observed growing in the vicinity, among the most interesting being *Hypericum kalmianum*, *Ceanothus americanus*, *Rhus aromatica* and *Comptonia asplenifolia*. The trailing arbutus was found in great abundance, and was growing in much deeper soil than at Chelsea or Aylmer. Lovers of this beautiful flower would find Norway Bay well worth a visit if only to procure this charming plant in quantities sufficient to satisfy everyone. Among herbaceous plants some of the most interesting growing near or along the beach were *Lobelia Kalmii*, *Desmodium pauciflorum*, *Helenium autumnale* and *Lobelia cardinalis*.





Macoun, James Melville et al. 1902. "Report of the Zoological Branch, 1901."  
*The Ottawa naturalist* 16(6), 135–137.

**View This Item Online:** <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/17572>

**Permalink:** <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/369028>

**Holding Institution**

MBLWHOI Library

**Sponsored by**

MBLWHOI Library

**Copyright & Reuse**

Copyright Status: Public domain. The BHL considers that this work is no longer under copyright protection.

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.