

find, in which the slayer was concealed. At this time the ground was frozen to a depth of six inches and all exits were closed. Of the three winter stores examined, No. 1 contained about three-quarters of a pint of the following seeds: Green Foxtail, *Setaria viridis*, 66 per cent.; Bugseed, *Corispermum hyssopifolium*, 34 per cent., both plants being abundant in the vicinity. Nos. 2 and 3 were close together and contained in all about the same quantity of seeds as No. 1, made up of Wild Buckwheat, *Polygonum convolvulus*, 48 per cent., *Panicum wilcoxianum*, 30 per cent., Blue-eyed Grass, *Sisyrinchium angustifolium*, 4 per cent., and *Lithospermum angustifolium*, 18 per cent. Green Foxtail, Wild Buckwheat and Bugseed are all weeds, the first two causing much loss to farmers by starving out various crops, while the other three are wild prairie plants of small economic significance.

None of the cultivated seeds occurred in these mouse's homes, nor in their pockets, but I have twice discovered locust eggs in the latter and have besides, observed many places where locust eggs had evidently been dug out of the ground. As a matter of fact, I believe that further evidence will show that these pocket mice live very largely upon insects during the summer months. One I kept in captivity preferred meal worms, (*Tenebrio molitor*) to any seeds, but when the latter were alone available it selected Green Foxtail and Wild Buckwheat in preference to cereals, Lamb's Quarters, Redroot, Tumble Weed and *Cycloloma*.

From the evidence depicted above it would seem that the Banded Pocket Mouse does little harm, while on the other hand the consumption of weed seeds, combined with the destruction of noxious insects speaks wholly in the mouse's favour. It would appear, therefore, that unlike most rodents, we have here an example that is useful and it is a pleasure to me to believe that this pretty little animal is worthy of protection.

THE NEW ZEALAND PERIPATUS.

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During my recent visit to New Zealand for the purpose of making an official survey of the fishery resources of that Dominion, I spent a day in the dense, almost tropical forest, so characteristic of beautiful Maoriland, with the object of seeing, in its native haunts, that wonderful yet insignificant little creature, *Peripatus*, about which almost a whole library of