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## NOTES ON THE MAMMALS OF RIDOUT, DISTRICT OF SUDBURY, ONTARIO.

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The comparative isolation of much of Northern Ontario from centres of habitation, seems a reasonable cause for the relative dearth of literature on the mammals from this region. The smaller species have, naturally, received little attention, and much is yet to be known about them, notably in regard to their range and life histories. Big game hunting and the fur-trade have doubtless conducted to a greater familiarity with the larger mammals than would otherwise have been the case. So far as is known the Ridout country has had no detailed investigation of its animal life; because of this fact the present paper based upon a collection of 55 mammals and observations thereon made in the immediate vicinity of Ridout is presented.

The first visit to the locality was from October 20 to November 2, 1917, efforts being mainly directed to the accumulation of notes on the larger mammals and birds of that period. With the present paper in view a return was made the following year, from October 1 to November 1, with every provision for the collection of specimens in order to round out the data as fully as possible.

The Jumping Mice (*Zapus hudsonicus* and *insignis*) were not secured, due partly to their early habit of hibernation. No bats were observed, nor Flying Squirrels (*Sciuropterus sabrinus*). No signs were seen of the Star-nosed Mole (*Condylura cristata*). Various circumstances prevent the list from being complete.

Ridout is situated on the Canadian Pacific Railway, 132 miles north-west of Sudbury, 166 miles south-east of White River, 96 miles north of Lake Huron and 280 miles south-west of James Bay. It is located upon the northern height of land at an elevation of 1,364 feet above the sea and 778 feet above Lake Superior. The surrounding hills range in altitude from 1,400 feet to probably 2,000 feet. Magnetic variation is about six degrees west of astronomical north.

The whole region is intersected by hundreds of streams and dotted with countless lakes of all sizes. Many feeders of that noble stream, the Moose River,

find their source along the height of land, converging fan-like to the majestic tide that sweeps northward to James Bay. Others, notably the Spanish River, flow southward to the Great Lakes.

The general character of the country about Ridout is that of vast rolling forested hills with frequent outcrops of gneiss or perhaps schist and greenstone. Some distance to the east, however, the region is broken into gigantic rock masses, mountains, and escarpments of desolate and infinite grandeur. The whole lies to-day as through all the ages.

Ridout lies well within the Canadian zone and in floral aspect resembles broadly that of all timbered sections west of Sudbury. Occasional boreal "islands" suggest the stunted evergreen forests of the Hudsonian zone. Conifers are everywhere predominant, the greater portion of the woods consisting of White and Black Spruce (*Picea canadensis* and *mariana*), Balsam Fir, (*Abies balsamea*) and Banksian or Jack Pine, (*Pinus banksiana*). Yellow and Canoe or White Birch (*Betula lutea* and *papyrifera*) occur, the latter especially being common and growing frequently in pure stands upon the side-hills. White and Red Pine (*Pinus strobus* and *resinosa*) flourish in varying numbers. The remaining common trees of the forest are Hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*), Tamarack (*Larix laricina*), White Cedar (*Tsuga occidentalis*), Aspen Poplar (*Populus tremuloides*), Balsam Poplar (*Populus balsamifera*) occurring on low ground along lakes and streams, Alder (*Alnus incana*) and the Mountain Maple (*Acer spicatum*). *Salix rostrata* is the only tree-like willow. Blueberries are usually an abundant crop, and numerous flowers, particularly the wild rose, I understand, grow in great profusion during the northern summer. Mosses and lichens occur almost everywhere on rocks, logs, ground and upon the branches of standing trees.

The avifauna of the region for October while inextensive will convey certain impressions in a brief list, impossible to other things. Birds noted