

occurring here. The subject is a difficult one, but many of these creatures are exceedingly curious in structure and habits; and collections of facts and specimens might be made, by any one having time to devote to such pursuits.

Among the vertebrated animals, though there is little ground so completely untraversed as in some of the lower forms of life, much may still be done. In one department the late Prof. McCulloch and Prof. Hall long since set a good example, in collecting birds and other vertebrates, and preparing lists of those frequenting or rarely visiting this locality. The geographical distribution of the higher animals as illustrated by such collections and lists, is in itself a very important subject.

The fishes of our rivers afford a fertile subject of inquiry. Many of the smaller species are probably undescribed, and there are some of peculiar interest which deserve study in their habits and modes of life. I refer especially to the *Lepidosteus** and the *Amia*,† those ancient forms of ganoid fishes which remind us so strongly of the antique species found fossil in the Palæozoic rocks, and a minute acquaintance with whose habits might throw most interesting light on the condition of the world in those bygone periods. Information on their spawning grounds, their haunts at different stages of growth, their food, their winter and summer resorts, their migrations, their peculiar instincts, if carefully collected, would be of inestimable value. Living specimens, which might be kept in vivaria and examined at leisure, would also be of great interest, and might be procured by many persons who have not themselves time or inclination for such studies. Agassiz, who has already so ably illustrated the structures and affinities of these animals, has invited collectors to contribute specimens for his great work now in progress; and any facts relating to the habits of these inhabitants of our waters, will be gladly received for this journal. I should add here, that Mr. Fowler, one of our members, has prepared a number of accurate and beautiful drawings of Canadian fishes, and can thus perpetuate for us the fleeting tints of our specimens.

Even the smaller quadrupeds of Canada are by no means well ascertained. The mice, the shrews, the bats, are very imperfectly known. There may be unknown species. There certainly are many unknown facts in distribution and habits. Mr. Billings has

* Bony Pike, Gar Fish, Poisson armée.

† Marsh fish, Mud fish, Poisson de marais, Poisson Castor.