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THE VERTEBRATES OF THE OTTER LAKE REGION, DORSET, ONTARIO.

By A. H. Wright and S. E. R. Simpson.

I.—GENERAL ACCOUNT.

By A. H. Wright.

The district covered by these notes might well be termed the Lake of Bays region. More strictly they pertain to the extreme eastern part of Muskoka from the longitude of Portage (between Peninsula Lake and Lake of Bays) to that of Hollow lake (Lake Kawagama, or Kahweambelewgamat or Kahweamhegewagamag) in northwestern Haliburton. In latitude they relate of the region from Dorset on Trading lake (the eastern end of Lake of Bays navigation) northward to Algonquin Park Station in southwestern Nipissing. The center of activity is at Camp Otter (Professor C. V. P. Young, Cornell '99, Director) on Otter lake which is two miles north of Dorset. The waters and woodlands of the above roughly outlined district are more or less traversed each summer by councillors of this camp.

Camp Otter is now in its eleventh season. From its beginning Prof. and Mrs. C. V. P. Young, its directors, have been interested in various phases of animal and plant life. Early associated with them were Dr. and Mrs. S. A. Munford and later Dr. and Mrs. Abram T. Kerr, of Ithaca, N.Y. Besides those who have encouraged the study of natural history in this region, have been several students or associates of the senior author. Some of these resident naturalists have been Prof. Asa C. Chandler, Mr. Frank M. Kilburn, Prof. E. L. Palmer, Mr. G. M. O'Connell (several seasons), Dr. H. G. Bull, Mr. D. C. Gamble and Mr. S. E. R. Simpson. We have added some observations of Mrs. Julia Moesel Haber (Prof. of Zoology in Elmira College, Elmira, N.Y.) for Fox Point (1911). Several summers Mr. L. A. Fuertes, the bird artist, has spent varying periods in the camp.

These lists are presented with the idea of starting a permanent catalogue of animal and plant forms of the region.

Otter Lake is distinctly in the Canadian life zone. The coniferous evergreens are: larch, black spruce, balsam fir, arbor vitae, hemlock, white and red pines, and common juniper *(Juniperus communis)*. Back of camp in the deeper woods or undisturbed areas occur plenty of yellow and paper birches, sugar maples, mountain ash with undergrowth of mountain and striped maples, hobblebush, beaked hazel nut and hoary alder *(A. incana)*. In the more open places are quaking aspen, large toothed poplar and some balsam poplar.

Along the road southward to Dorset and Lake of Bays where sparse settlement begins, occur a few basswood, American elm, white ash, black birch, staghorn sumac, scarlet oak, choke cherry, alternate-leaved dogwood, thorn apple *(Crataegus sp.)*, and *(Diervilla Lonicera)*, unmistakable signs of the Transition Zone. No black walnuts, butternuts, nor hickories were recorded. On Rock Island of Otter lake and along some roads occur red oak, wild red cherry, june berry, Bebb's willow.

Along the road to Hardwood lake and at Hardwood lake a similar element we have, in some beeches among many maples and birches, plenty of wild black and red cherries, staghorn sumac, black elders, alternate-leaved dogwood and white ash.

Around or in peat bogs occur: leather leaf, bog rosemary, withe rod *(Viburnum cassinoides)*, blueberries *(Vaccinium pennsylvanicum, V. p. nigrum, V. canadense)*, black alder *(Ilex verticillata)*, skunk currant *(Ribes prostratum)* and mountain holly *(Nemopanthus mucronata)* the last being rare.

Around some of the lakes or in swampy edges were found sweet gale *(Myrica Gale)* red berried elder, glaucous willow, shining willow, meadow sweet and black ash.

Other trees and shrubs which proved uncommon about camp were red-osier dogwood, sheep laurel *(Kalmia angustifolia)*, American fly honeysuckle, hop hornbean *(Ostrya virginiana)*.

The herbaceous flora reveals a strong Canadian cast. Around the camp site are twin-flower *(Linnaea borealis)*, dwarf cornel *(C. canadensis)*, common wood sorrel *(Oxalis acetosella)*, pale corydalis *(Corydalis sempervirens)*, bristly sarsaparilla,