

The following observations regarding mammals may be of interest. Rodents, especially the little gophers, were very plentiful all over the prairies, and a few specimens of different kinds of rodents obtained. A covote, or prairie wolf, was seen walking over a field, some 50 yards away, in the Qu'Appelle Valley; and having an opportunity Mr. Halkett paid a visit to the park in Alberta where the recently acquired herd of buffalo have been introduced. He saw about 30 of the bulls herding by themselves, but the park was too extensive to devote the time to go over the whole of it. They were massive animals, but whether owing to their transportation, or because the environment did not suit them, the most of them appeared to be in poor condition. The tracks of the escaped bull, of which so much was mentioned in the newspapers, were also seen along the shores of Beaver Lake. A shrew was found in the village of Chipman, Alberta, and three bats were obtained in the Qu'Appelle Valley.

Whilst horses and cattle appear to be in the finest condition in the valley of the Qu'Appelle, Mr. Halkett was struck with the entire absence of sheep on the ranches. On enquiring for the reason of this, he was told that it was impossible to keep them because they eat the leaves and plumose styles of a plant which the people call the prairie crocus (*Pulsatilla hirsutissima*) which are said to form masses in the stomachs of the sheep and cause their death. Cattle, on the other hand, are said to eat this plant with impunity.

An unusually handsome toad (*Bufo americana*) was obtained by Mr. E. E. Lemieux at Victoria Park, Aylmer, P.Q., and the same gentleman secured a specimen of the milk-snake (*Natrix sipedon*) in the vicinity of Chats Falls, containing over 40 perfect young, each about 6 inches long. The date was October 1st, and the capture is remarkable, not only as illustrating the viviparous character of this species, but extending its breeding season to a much later date than before recorded. Fuller notes on this capture will appear immediately in the 'Ottawa Naturalist.'

Several specimens of the lake sturgeon (*Acipenser rubicundus*) from Lake Deschene and the Ottawa River, near the Rifle Range, Ottawa, have been mounted and placed in the collection in the Fisheries Museum; but the most remarkable local find of the season, perhaps, is a specimen of the soft-shelled turtle (*Trionyx spinifer*) from l'Ange Gardien, Province of Quebec. This turtle belongs to the Super-family Trionychoidea, whereas the most of the turtles of Canada belong to the Super-family Cryptodira, and it is surely a rarity.