

ZOOLOGICAL NOTES FOR 1908.

BY J. F. WHITEAVES.

Among the additions to the zoological collections in the Museum of the Geological Survey for 1908, there are three specimens that seem to be of sufficient interest to warrant a permanent record. These are as follows:—

MAMMALIA.

(1) *PUTORIUS RIXOSUS*, Bangs.

(*Least Weasel*; *Bangs' Weasel*).

A weasel, that corresponds very well with Mr. Bangs' description of this diminutive species, was obtained by Mr. Joseph Keele in January, 1908, at Third Lake, on the Ross River, Yukon Territory, in Long. $131^{\circ}W.$, and Lat. $62^{\circ}45'N.$ The specimen, which was caught in a marten trap, is in full winter fur, and was said by the trapper to be a male. It is remarkable for its extremely small size, its fur is pure white, and its tail is short and white at the tip. It was received in the condition of a well prepared skin, with the skull, and has since been mounted for exhibition. Following the curves of the head, neck, back and tail, it now measures roughly 172 mm. or slightly less than $6\frac{3}{4}$ inches, from the nose to the tip of the tail; or about $5\frac{3}{4}$ inches, if measured in a straight line.

The type of *P. rixosus*, Bangs, 1896 (Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, Vol. x, p. 21), is an adult female from Osler, Saskatchewan; and the species is known to occur also at the mouth of the Porcupine River, Alaska; on the upper Yukon; at Fort Albany, and at Moose Factory.

This species is the smallest weasel known, and the only American one that lacks the black tip to the tail.

(2) *SYNAPTOMYS (MICTOMYS) WRANGELI*, Merriam.

(*The Alaskan Lemming Mouse*).

A specimen of this species, was presented to the Museum of the Survey by the Rev. J. H. Keen, of Metlakatla, B.C., in October, 1908. This interesting little rodent was caught by Mr. Keen at Metlakatla on the second of November, 1899, and is the first specimen of this species that has been received in Ottawa. The specimen is a skin, with the skull, and the label that accompanies it states that it is a male.

The exclusively North American genus *Synaptomys* was constituted by Dr. Spencer F. F. Baird, in 1857, in his "Mammalia