

NOTE ON THE BLUE-TAILED LIZARD.

Several summers past, beginning with the summer of 1897, I have observed a very pretty little lizard on an island of Stony Lake in Peterboro' County, Ontario. As true lizards are not common in Ontario (though newts and salamanders, which are popularly called "lizards," are fairly common) and as this is the only Canadian lizard I have ever seen, I have been the more interested in it.

At noon on a bright, warm day in August, 1899, with the aid of a little boy, I secured a specimen in the shallow water on the flat rocky shore, made a sketch of it, and then let it go. I am loth to kill animals, even rare ones, or rather especially rare ones; for I regard such animals as the very ones to be most encouraged in the locality. This proved to be the Blue-tailed Lizard, *Eumeces fasciatus*, one of the skinks. It was very nearly four inches long, black, with five yellow stripes along the back, the middle one being forked at the head; and it had an iridescent blue-green tail. One summer I found one dead on the shore. Last year as I was clearing the shore of drift-wood, I saw one come out of an old stump. It was within arm's length of me, and we remained looking at each other for some time before I made an unsuccessful effort to catch it. I have at other times caught glimpses of them as they darted under a rock or log; and this summer my sister saw one under the corner of the house.

In all cases the animal was seen in the middle of the day; it must therefore be, to some extent at least, diurnal. It is no wonder that the lizards are rare and consequently little observed in Canada; for, being at once cold-blooded (or rather poikilotherm) and terrestrial, they like a warm climate, and are found in abundance only in tropical climes. Of the other reptiles we have, for the same reason, no alligators or crocodiles and but comparatively few species of snakes and turtles.

As Professor Macoun knows of no previous record of this lizard in Canada, I have thought it worth while to make this note of it.

CEPHAS GUILLET.

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