

NOTE ON THE EUROPEAN CARP.

To the Editor of THE OTTAWA NATURALIST:—

The species of fish, which you kindly drew my attention to at Lapointe's, the fish-dealer's, two large specimens of which were purchased for the museum, is the European carp (*Cyprinus carpio*). The specimens are from Lake Ontario, and were transported from Toronto to Ottawa. They weigh some 22 pounds each, being within $\frac{1}{4}$ pound of each other; and measure respectively: (1) 2 ft. 9 ins. long; 9 ins. deep; 1 ft. 10 ins. girth; (2) 2 ft. 8 ins. long; 10 ins. deep; 2 ft. girth. A number of much smaller specimens were also seen at the same time in the market. Another specimen of this species in the Fisheries Museum, from the Bay of Quinte, near Belleville, Ont., is mentioned in the Zoological Report of the Club; and Mr. Hurley, Fishery Officer, states that the carps are infesting the Bay of Quinte in thousands. When fresh the two specimens from the market manifested high coloration: they were a vivid golden colour, and the paired fins, opercular covers, and other parts were bright reddish, a feature which Prof. Prince considers, probably, due to seasonal characters, owing to the approach of the spawning time. The structure of the carp is to be found treated of in various ichthyological works, and, therefore, need not be entered into here; and a very full account of how injudicious it has been to introduce the German carp into our waters will be found in an article entitled: "The Place of Carp in Fish-culture" (Supplement No. 1 to the 29th Annual Report of the Department of Marine and Fisheries, Fisheries Branch, 1896), by Prof. E. E. Prince, Commissioner of Fisheries.

ANDREW HALKETT.

Ottawa, 22nd April, 1907.

INJURY TO NESTS BY MUSKRATS.

During the past week we have found three nests of the Virginia rail and one nest of the American bittern, with the eggs all smashed. As these nests were all located in marshes in remote parts of the country, I have placed this destruction to the credit of the muskrats, which are quite common in the district.

I shall be very glad to have the views of some of our ornithological friends on this subject, and to know if my conclusions are correct.

W. J. BROWN.

Westmount, Que., June 3rd, 1907.