

the use of a microscope for showing specimens, Mr. F. C. Whitehouse.

Sept. 26—Edible fungi, Mrs. Powell.

In January a meeting was held at Wetaskiwin and special papers were given by members from Red Deer.

The Society's publication of "Dragonflies

(Odonata) of Alberta" by F. C. Whitehouse, 1918, was followed this year with "Annotated Check List of the Macrolepidoptera of Alberta," by Mr. K. Bowman.

The society's report is published annually in the Report of the Provincial Department of Agriculture.

BOOK NOTICES AND REVIEWS.

SIX NEW FISHES FROM NORTHWESTERN CANADA. By Francis Harper and John Treadwell Nichols. Bulletin of the American Museum of Natural History, Vol. XLI, Art. 11, pp. 263-270, plate XV. New York, Sept. 22, 1919.

A collection of fishes made by Francis Harper, while on an expedition of the Geological Survey of Canada to Great Slave lake in 1914, in company with Charles Camsell "An Exploration of the Tazin and Taltson rivers, Northwest Territories," by Charles Camsell, Memoir 84, Geol. Series 69, 1916, pp. 1-124, plates 18, map 1), has been found to comprise fifteen species, represented by approximately 120 individuals. Although previous collections of fishes from the region had been scanty and the material in poor condition, the collection described contained a surprisingly large proportion of previously unknown species. The new species described are as follows:

Catostomus richardsoni Harper and Nichols. Richardson's Gray Sucker; "Gray Sucker." Type locality, Taltson river, at its junction with Tazin river, south of Great Slave lake. Geographic range, Mackenzie and Winnipeg (?) Basins. Although this species was discovered by Dr. Richardson, it has been either disregarded or considered identical with various other species for nearly a century.

Opsopoeodus borealis Harper and Nichols. Athabasca Minnow. Type locality, Lake Athabasca, at Fort Chipewyan, Alberta. Type specimen, No. 1048, Victoria Memorial Museum, Ottawa.

Coregonus preblei Harper and Nichols. Preble's Whitefish. Type locality, Tazin river, about one mile above its confluence with the Taltson river. Type specimen, No. 1038, Victoria Memorial Museum, Ottawa.

Leucichthys entomophagus Harper and Nichols. Tazin River Cisco. Type locality, Tazin river, at the foot of Kolethe rapids. Type specimen, No. 1021, Victoria Memorial Museum, Ottawa.

Leucichthys athabasca Harper and Nichols. Cisco of Lake Athabasca. Type locality, Lake Athabasca, at mouth of Charlot river, northern

Saskatchewan. Type specimen, No. 1020, Victoria Memorial Museum, Ottawa.

Leucichthys macronathus Harper and Nichols. Cisco of Great Slave lake. Type locality, Shore waters of Great Slave lake, near Fort Resolution. Type specimen, No. 1031, Victoria Memorial Museum, Ottawa.

All but one of the above are valuable food fishes. The commercial use of these fishes is becoming more important as settlement advances into this borderland of the north, and the work of Mr. Harper is an indication that much is to be expected when the fish fauna of the region is more thoroughly examined scientifically.

R. M. ANDERSON.

THE BIRDS OF THE RED DEER RIVER, ALBERTA, by P. A. Taverner. Reprinted from the *Auk*, January and April, 1919. A report of work done on and near the Red Deer river in the summer of 1918, by the author, assisted by the keen intelligence of Mr. C. H. Young, both of the Geological Survey staff.

The party floated down the river in a rough but roomy and competent boat made for the purpose, of which the author says that he knows of no important detail where a change would have been advantageous. Camps were made at convenient locations for several days at a time, and each locality was worked as thoroughly as time and circumstances permitted. A map is attached, showing the location of the various camps, and the topography of the country in general.

The present account, including additional information available from local sources, doubtless includes most of the breeding birds of the region. A commendable feature of the report of the expedition is the treatment of the matter of geographical variation, that bugbear of the field naturalist. There are specialists whose energies are (or appear to be) wholly devoted to the discovery of infinitesimal shades of difference between examples of a species from different habitats, and far be it from us to hint that theirs is not a useful niche in the world of ornithology, but the results