

## REPORT OF THE ZOOLOGICAL BRANCH, 1906.

The Zoological Branch of the Ottawa Field Naturalists' Club have the honour to report as follows: Two meetings have been held during the past season, the first on November 9th, when the principal business was the making arrangements for the zoological exhibit at the soiree on December 4th; but the zoologists present afterwards joined in a general discussion upon various topics of interest. On March 16th, the second meeting took place, and the season's work was reviewed, but it is necessary in the report now presented to refer only to such matters as may have general interest and in some cases have an element of novelty. Both the meetings, it may be added, were held at the house of the convener of the Branch (Professor Prince).

An important feature of the season 1906 was the abnormal lowness of the water in the Ottawa River and tributary waters, affecting, indeed, the whole district. Many creeks and ponds which in previous dry seasons have retained a quantity of water were perfectly dry, and the usual stock of aquatic animals and plants seemed to have disappeared. Whatever the cause, the effect of this drought upon aquatic life in many localities near Ottawa has been serious. Certain ponds in the suburbs of the Capital which have been favourite hunting grounds for members of the Club, and have not been dried up before, or not for many years, were perfectly parched, and one member instanced some most prolific ponds along the upper Ottawa River, near Pembroke, in which the destruction of young fishes and amphibians, and of invertebrates, had been most disastrous. One pond was visited when in the last stage of drying up, and in a small area of two or three square yards, were huddled together in a seething mass, thousands of living creatures, including tadpoles of various species of frogs and toads, numerous young fishes, *Lepomis*, *Micropterus*, *Perca*, *Etheostoma*, *Lucius*, etc., and myriads of insect larvæ, Coleoptera and Neuroptera, and numerous specimens of *Argyroneta*. Several enthusiastic young naturalists, with nets and tin vessels, rescued most of these imperilled creatures and deposited them in shallow places in the main river. It will be interesting to see the effect generally of this drought upon the aquatic life in the dried-up ponds referred to.

Of mammals mention must be made of a band of wolves heard howling near Pembina Lake in the upper Lievre River district, these animals uttering their weird cries even in the day time, it is asserted. Virginia deer were reported at the Rockliffe Range in the fall, and bears and deer at Hammond. A black musk-rat, *Fiber zibethicus*, was captured near Ottawa and