

Cope). Careful research may reward the student in this branch, of which very little is known in this district.

Mention was made in a paper on the fish of the Ottawa district, read before your Society last winter, of a red-bellied minnow, supposed to be a species peculiar to this district, but of the existence of which as a separate species there is much doubt. Nothing has been ascertained further during the past year, but information is desired respecting it. The sheepshead (*Haploidonotus grunniens*, Jordan), which, years ago, was abundant, but which of late has been a rarity in the Ottawa River, is again making its appearance on our markets, and it would be interesting to ascertain whether its reappearance is due to fish protection and the absence of universal netting, or to local causes affecting the water, or to the reappearance of certain food it preys upon. Mr. Harrington noted a large number of dead fish—pike, bass, suckers, perch, etc.—in St. Louis Dam on 28th April. This circumstance has been frequently noticed in that locality in spring, and has been attributed to impurities draining into that body of water during winter from factories and tanyards in its vicinity. Another probable cause of this recurring mortality might be traced to the solid coating of ice over the shallows which are left after the water has been let out of the canal at the approach of winter, and which prevents the fish which remain there from obtaining air. It is a well known fact that, in a pond completely frozen over, unless an opening exists where the fish can approach the surface for air, the majority of them will perish during winter. As the water of the canal is not let out until ice of a considerable thickness has formed, the superincumbent weight settling down with the outflow of the water probably prevents the passage of the fish from many of the pools or shallows, and even presses upon them, or they may congregate in the slightly deeper parts of the dam which later in the winter freeze to the bottom.

A close study of the lake trout of this district is desirable, as it is a disputed point amongst naturalists whether there are really more than one species, and if the so-called different species are not only varieties, influenced by locality, water and food.

Two species of field mice were noticed, the white-footed or deer-mouse (*Hesperomys leucopus*), and the meadow mouse (*Arvicola riparia*),