

A RARE WEASEL AT OTTAWA.

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Exact knowledge regarding weasels is not a part of the mental equipment of most nature lovers, and the capture of what was to me a rare specimen, may afford an opportunity for hanging thereon a few remarks.

It is, of course, well known that the weasel, which in summer is brown above and yellowish white below, turns pure white in winter, with the exception of the tip of the tail, which is black at all seasons. I had long realized that there were two sizes of weasels which (naturally!) were of two species, but some years ago when I happened to study them a little I found that all the large ones were males, and all the small ones were females, and the authorities state this is the normal condition of affairs in the common *Putorius noveboracensis*. There is, however, a small weasel in old Ontario, and I have been on the lookout to find it for a long time, but vainly, until November 11th. at Ottawa, when I shot one on the stone ridge thrown out of the pipe excavation leading to the Tuberculosis Hospital. I saw before shooting that this specimen was a small one, and when I found I had a male, I was delighted, as it could be nothing else than the long sought Bonaparte's Weasel, *Putorius cicognani*. When I fired I was delighted to see him fall right over, apparently dead, but to make sure I ran the intervening distance and was disgusted to see a flicker of white disappearing down through the stone pile, just as I reached him. That, of course, made it necessary that the stone pile should be removed, which was promptly done, and, encouraged by an occasional drop of blood, operations proceeded as far as the ground and then along the pile in the direction indicated, when he was soon found stone dead.

Doubtless this animal covers the coniferous parts of Ontario fairly well, but in my district around London, where the vegetation is largely deciduous and where balsams are entirely absent, it is doubtful if there are any of these remaining; certainly I have never been able to learn of the capture of one of them.

The normal measurement in millimeters of male and female *noveboracensis* and the measurement of this specimen of *cicognani*, which seems to be normal, are given below:

	Length	Tail	Hind foot
Noveboracensis—Male.....	418	150	50
Female.....	298	92	26
Cicognani.....	290	80	35