

larval form, and is content to remain in ignorance of the beauties and charms of the dry land. The family to which he belongs is a small, as well as a lowly one, as the Cambridge Natural History reduces the various described forms to three genera, each with only one species. The mud puppy's connections are, so far as known, confined to limited areas and are of a very retiring disposition. *Proteus anguinus* is found in Austria, and inhabits subterranean waters, especially those of the large caves of Adelsburg near Trieste. Its whole body is white, but is so susceptible to light, that when removed from its natural habitat and exposed to sunlight, it gradually becomes darker and finally entirely black. The remaining species is *Typhlomolge rathbuni*, an inhabitant of subterranean waters in Texas. The extent of its distribution is unknown, for all the specimens yet observed have been taken from an artesian well, 188 feet deep, near San Marcos. Like other inhabitants of such dark hidden waters it is colourless and sightless. Possibly the fondness shown by these two species of the Proteidæ for a subterranean existence may influence the young mud-puppies which find their way in to the darkness of our water mains. Passing through the screens of the intake pipe, as an egg or while still small, it is drawn onward until it takes the plunge into the vortex of city life, from which there is no return to the home of its kindred.

THE COW-BIRD IN WINTER.

In December, 1901, Mr. W. T. Macoun saw a cow-bird associating with the English sparrow around the barns at the Experimental Farm near the city. Afterwards, this bird, or another, was picked up dead near the barns. It proved to be a male, and is now in the Geological Survey Museum.

A little before Christmas a Museum assistant noticed what he called a black sparrow sitting on the maple tree in front of a window on George street. For over ten days it remained with the sparrows, fed with them and sat on the twigs with them, but never seemed intimate with them. It was not seen afterwards, and may have succumbed to the late severe weather.