

REPORT OF THE ZOOLOGICAL BRANCH, 1890.

(Read Jan. 15, 1891.)

To the President and Council of the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club:—

In making a report of the work of the Club for the past year in that branch of natural history which relates principally to the mammalia found to exist in the neighborhood of Ottawa, we cannot say that any discoveries of particular importance have been made. Many of the larger animals which were at one time quite common have completely disappeared with the cutting down of the forests and the occupation of the land by man, whilst several others are seen only at rare intervals, and these are likely also to disappear at no very distant date. Of the smaller animals, many are yet to be found, and, if new varieties are discovered at all, it will most likely be among the moles, the shrews and the little rodents.

The following is a summary of captures, etc., which have been reported:—

Mr. Evarts, of this city, caught in his house in an ordinary mouse-trap a White-footed Mouse (*Hesperomys leucopus*) in November last, and sent it to Mr. W. A. D. Lees, who in turn sent it to Mr. Whiteaves, of the Geological Survey, who had the specimen mounted. It is now to be seen in the Museum. Several mice of the same sort have been seen during the year in and about dwellings. The mouse itself is common; but we are not aware of its having been previously reported as having taken up its abode in such places.

Mr. F. A. Saunders reports having caught in a trap in Dow's swamp, in November last, three specimens of the Red-backed Mouse (*Eutamias rutilus*), the traps being placed under a fallen tree and baited with apple.

He also reports having seen a Red Fox in June and another one in October, besides Rabbits, Chipmunks, Red Squirrels, Musk Rats, Field and White-footed Mice, and one Flying Squirrel in July last. He further reports that he and his brother, Mr. W. E. Saunders, shot several Bats in the early part of July, among which were the Hoary Bat, the Brown and Silver-haired, and some others which they had not