

bers of the club should be asked to report as soon as possible to the leaders of this branch, for the time being, if they should observe any animal which might be new to them, as important discoveries may often be lost for want of attention just at the time. They think also that it would be desirable to have printed, a list of all the mammals which have ever been known to frequent this neighborhood. Many of the larger kinds have now completely disappeared.

Respectfully submitted,

Ottawa, March 14, 1890.

J. BALLANTYNE, } Leaders.  
W. P. LETT. }

—:O:—

### CORRESPONDENCE.

*To the Editor of the Ottawa Naturalist:*

SIR,—In the transactions of the O. F. N. C. for 1883-84, the report of the Ornithological Branch notes that one of its members found the Short-billed Marsh Wren, *Cistothorus stellaris*, "very abundant" in a marsh along the Rideau, about twenty miles from the city. As this is a very rare bird in Ontario, and one whose acquaintance I have never made, I made enquiries about the locality, and on the 9th July my brother, F. A. Saunders, and myself took the C. P. Ry. to Osgoode and went from there to Kars, where we were informed the Marsh Wrens were to be found. The marsh was there, with the usual quota of marsh birds, viz: Florida Gallinule, Bittern, Carolina Rail, Virginia Rail, Red-winged Blackbird and Long-billed Marsh Wren, but though we searched diligently we could find no trace of the short-billed species. All we saw at short range were long-billed, and the only one we shot was of the same species, but as neither of us were familiar with the song of the short-billed, we might possibly have heard it without knowing it. The eggs would have provided a ready means of determining the presence of the Short-billed Wrens had they been laid, but though we examined between twenty and thirty nests, some of them almost if not quite completed, none contained eggs and we were again left in the dark. These nests, however, were the ordinary type of the long-bill, whereas the short-bill is said to build among long rush-like grasses,