

NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

THE YELLOW-THROATED VIREO NEAR SEELEY'S BAY.—This bird is usually looked on as rather southern in Ontario, and I was a little surprised to hear its well-known and easily distinguished song in the woods near Seeley's Bay while motoring to Ottawa on July 3, 1919. On looking up the records I find that there are many reports of its occurrence in eastern Ontario, but that observed on the above date is the first one that I remember to have seen myself, and perhaps the occurrence is worthy of record.

W. E. SAUNDERS.

A NEW MAMMAL FOR CANADA.—In the summer of 1890 the writer, with Dr. F. A. Saunders, was collecting mammals at Ottawa, and among others we were after bats. On the evening of July 10, we took in "Clarke's woods," immediately northwest of the Observatory gate of the Experimental Farm, a little brown bat, and unfortunately, we managed to lose the skull. Recently, I was sending some specimens for identification to Washington, and decided that the little bat was sufficiently different to be identified without the skull, so I included it.

The answer comes back that it is the *Pipistrelle*, *Pipistrellus subflavus*, and the first to be taken in Canada. It does not differ from the specimens taken in New York state near Lake George, and that general region, the only source of records up to the present.

This bat may now be looked for in all the territory between Ottawa and the St. Lawrence, and ought to be found at Montreal.

The little known bats are near enough alike to be a moderate puzzle to those who do not know them, but most species can be readily picked out by the initiated. We have in Ontario *Eptesicus fuscus*, *Myotis subulatus*, *M. lucifugus*, and probably *Nycticeius humeralis*, besides the additional species noted above.

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PHENACOMYS INTERMEDIUS FROM HIGH RIVER, ALBERTA.—Among a small number of mammals sent to Washington for identification, one is returned with the above label. I have been hunting for specimens of this genus for years, and it is a sad commentary on one's acuteness to find that an example has been taken and remained unrecognized!

It was with a lot of *Microtus* living in a shrubby valley, and is really remarkably like some members

of the other genus taken there and in the nearby regions. When I showed the specimen to a noted mammalogist he said at once that he recognized *Phenacomys* roughly by the long thick fur, but immediately he found that *Microtus drummondi* from the same locality was indistinguishable. The root characters of the teeth turn out to belong to very old individuals only, and this leaves the younger, though fully grown adults, in the class of "very difficult to identify."

The tail is short, but so are tails of *Microtus* found alongside. To illustrate the difficulty the following measurements are of several specimens:

	Length.	Tail.
854 <i>Phenacomys</i> -----	123	27
882 <i>Microtus minor</i> -----	118	26
880 " <i>drummondi</i> -----	126	35
884 " <i>minor</i> -----	127	29
885 " " -----	127	29

W. E. SAUNDERS.

BREWER'S SPARROW IN SASKATCHEWAN AND ALBERTA.—In a recent issue of the *Condor*, there is a record of the occurrence of this sparrow in Alberta, and it is given as the first record for the province. When I looked it up in Macoun's *Birds of Canada*, I was surprised to find that the claim is correct. My impression had been that it was fairly well known and widespread near the Alberta-Saskatchewan line, but in this I was mistaken. Moreover, I find that I have failed to find it three times when on what might be considered to be favorable ground in those provinces, namely, at Gull Lake, Sask.; High River, Alta., and Dunmore, Alta. On Sept. 1, 1896, I took a specimen, my first, at Maple Creek, Alta., and my records do not show any others observed on that day. I did not meet with it again until June 9, 1906, when my train was delightfully held up all day at Cummings, in the dry region of Saskatchewan, owing to a "washout." The other passengers fretted, but to me it was a great chance. In my wanderings through the muddy plains that day, I found two nests of Brewer's sparrow and took two male birds, and heard and saw many others. These are now in my collection and measure 138, 64, 56, 18 and 140, 65, 61, 17.

These birds were inhabiting a sage brush country, and the nests were in sage at about a foot from the ground. They resembled those of the field and chipping sparrows, and the eggs are of the same type.

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