Feb. 22, 1918—Prehistoric Reptiles, Mr. Wilton.
March 2—Wild Fruits of Alberta, Mrs. George.
May 31—Geological History, Mr. L. J. Williams.

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A NOVEL MODE OF MOVING A FAMILY.—A unique plan for carrying their families from one place to another is adopted by certain mammals. The method, which is simple but effective, consists in each young one taking such a firm hold of a teat that it is not loosened even after the mother has moved a considerable distance.

The female White-footed Mouse, *Peromyscus leucopus* Raf. is known to carry her family quite frequently in this manner. The following quotation from *A Hermit's Wild Friends* by Mason A. Walton, refers to this mouse: "If the young mice are small in some mysterious way the mother mouse induces each youngster to cling to a teat, when the whole family is removed in this novel manner to a safe retreat beneath the cabin. It is a comical sight to see the old mouse crawling along a log with eight or ten raw, shapeless things clinging to her like grim death."

Several years ago I saw a meadow-mouse, *Microtus pennsylvanicus*, succeed in saving her young by this method. She had been driven from her burrow under a stump by a dog, but managed to escape, trailing her whole litter into another burrow. The young mice in this instance were much more mature than those referred to by the "Hermit".

The muskrat, *Fiber zibethicus* Linn. has also developed this plan of making a quick withdrawal with her family. I have noted this only on one occasion, but at that time the mother swam several yards under water from one burrow entrance to another and towed her youngsters, which could plainly be seen clinging to her. She must also have brought them in the same manner along the burrow from the nest above high-water mark.

A. COSENS, TORONTO.

HABITAT OF CAREX FRANKLINII, BOOTT.—*Carex Franklinii* was collected by the writer at four stations along the Athabaska river in 1917 and 1918 at extreme distances of 20 miles apart and in each case the habitat was the same. Here and there along the Athabaska river there are low boggy areas bordering the river itself. These bogs are caused by seepage from the true bank of the river or by springs and are characteristic of all mountain streams. There is generally a considerable trace of "alkali" in the soil as is indicated by the occurrence of *Ranunculus, Cymbalaria, Triglochin, Puccinellia, Dodecatheon, etc.* Between these bogs, which are often only a few yards in width, and the river there is always a narrow strip of higher ground formed of alluvium which although submerged at high water is generally a few feet above the river bed. It was always on this narrow strip that *Carex Franklinii* was found and of the hundred or more specimens collected all but two or three were on the river edge of this bank associated with the usual plants of such localities.

During parts of two seasons spent at Jasper Park a constant lookout was kept for this species which had not been collected since Drummond's time, but it was seen nowhere else but in the localities indicated. As the old "Athabaska Trail" in many places follows the narrow strip referred to above and this was the trail followed by Drummond, it is reasonable to suppose that his specimens were collected not far from the localities at which *Carex Franklinii* was found in 1917 and 1918. This species is represented in the herbarium of the Geological Survey of Canada by the following specimens from Jasper Park, No. 97,622, along Athabaska river at discharge of Beauvert lake, Alta., 3,300 ft., July 24th, 1917; No. 94,208, same locality, collected by Dr. M. O. Malte, July 31st, 1917; No. 97,621, same locality, July 23rd, 1918; No. 97,623, about three-fourths of a mile above the bridge across Athabaska river, 2 specimens only; No. 97,624, along Athabaska river near Buffalo Prairie, Aug. 3rd, 1918; No. 97,625, north side of Athabaska river across from discharge of Beauvert lake, July 1st, 1918.

J. M. MACOUN.

A FISH SHOWER.—Although there are many records of showers of fishes, frogs and toads, such accounts are commonly regarded as apocryphal, based on mistaken observation or faulty reasoning.

An account of a fish shower in a Toronto paper of February, 1917, seemed to afford an opportunity for investigating one of these surprising phenomena. The fish fell in Durham county, Hope township, concession 9, lot 16. On writing to the owner of the farm I was furnished with the following details: On the last Friday of February, 1917, the fish came down in a shower of rain, that was followed by a soft snow. A mild south wind was blowing at the time. The fish were found, a few yards apart, scattered over a distance of twenty rods. Twenty-five of them were picked up from the surface of the snow, which was soft and deep in that locality.

A specimen of the fish sent to me is two and three-quarter inches in length. After comparing it