

REPORT OF THE ZOOLOGICAL BRANCH OF THE OTTAWA
FIELD-NATURALISTS' CLUB FOR THE YEAR ENDING
18TH MARCH, 1890.

In the year which is just closing there have been no mammals observed in the immediate vicinity of Ottawa, which have not hitherto been seen and more or less accurately described. This does not mean, however, that the field is exhausted, as there is no certainty of such being the case, on the contrary, there are reasons for believing that there yet may be found among the smaller mammals species new to this locality, it being only about three years ago since the hairy-tailed mole (*Scapanus breweri*) was first noted as having been seen in this neighborhood

During the past year two specimens of mole shrew (*Blarina brevicauda*) were caught, one by Mr. Lees in the early part of December in the village of Ottawa East, and the other by Mr. Fletcher in Stewarton in January last, both of which were sent to Mr. Whiteaves of the Geological Museum and duly acknowledged. The one caught by Mr. Lees has been prepared and mounted and placed among the other animals in the museum. One specimen of the field mouse (*Arvicola pennsylvanica*) was caught in Mr. Fletcher's house on the 10th February, after having gnawed off about a yard of a lace curtain where it touched the ground. It gnawed its way into the room through the floor. It is well known that the common house mouse will eat starch quite readily, and probably the field mouse, having a similar taste, was attracted by the starchy dressing of the curtain.

A jumping mouse (*Zapus hudsonius*) was caught near Billings Bridge last summer by Mr. Bartlett, of the city post office, who ought to be a member of this club. The mouse is somewhat rare in this vicinity. It is now mounted and placed in the Geological Museum.

It is hardly necessary to mention that Mr. W. P. Lett gave a very instructive and interesting lecture on the 21st February on the habits and characteristics of the common grey wolf before the members of this club. The animal in question having been very common in this locality thirty or forty years ago, but now never seen.

We think it well to recommend that in future the different mem-