

I wish to thank Messrs. Purcell and Egan, taxidermists of Halifax, for information regarding birds they have mounted, and for the liberty they have given me of inspecting their collections. To others, also, especially Mr. James McKinlay, of Pictou, N. S., I am much indebted for particulars relative to rare specimens.

MAMMALS.

BLACK RAT (*Mus rattus*). One of these animals was killed by a cat in Mr. S. Dawson's country house, Pictou, in October, 1887. It is now preserved in the museum of the Academy. The species is very rare in Nova Scotia, and Dr. J. Bernard Gilpin, at the time he prepared his papers on the mammalia of the province*, knew of only four instances of its occurrence. One specimen was mounted by Mr. A. Downs, two others were procured by himself, and the fourth was given to him by Mr. J. R. Willis. It has also been observed on the Pacific sea-board, but nowhere has it penetrated far into the interior.

BIRDS.

HOLBELL'S GREBE (*Colymbus holboellii*)*. A male was shot near Halifax, on 9th April, 1891. Another in full breeding-plumage was killed on 25th April, 1894. Both were mounted by Mr. Thomas J. Egan, of Halifax. In the spring, about five years ago, the same gentleman obtained a specimen of the immature bird—the only one he has ever noted. At this age, the species for many years was erroneously described by naturalists as the "Crested Grebe," owing to its resemblance to the British bird of that name.

HORNED GREBE (*Colymbus auritus*). Mr. Downs only knew of one instance of this bird having been taken in Nova Scotia. It may be as well to record that the specimen which he referred to, was one which had been set-up many years ago by Mr. Egan. Since then, the latter taxidermist purchased two, male and female, in full spring plumage, which were shot together at Lawrencetown, Halifax County, on 17th or 18th April, 1894. They were brought to Halifax on 21st April. Another, a male,

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