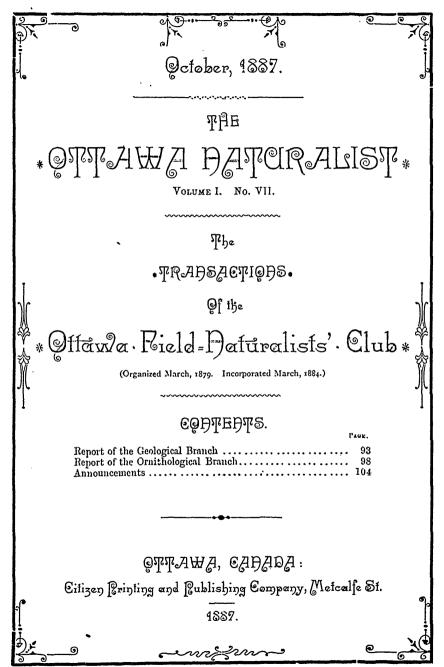
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REPORT OF THE GEOLOGICAL BRANCH.

To the Council of the Ottawa Field Naturalists Club.

The leaders have much pleasure in reporting that continued progress in the development of the geological and kindred resources of this rich and interesting field of research has marked the season just passed. Mr. John Stewart, whose energy and zeal have been rewarded by the accumulation of very extensive and valuable collections of fossils from the splendid exposures of Ottawa and its environs, reports that during the past year he has made a large number of very interesting finds in the various form lons of this district. Besides making an elaborate collection of the species represented in the Hudson River formation outlier on the Canada Atlantic Railway some four miles distant from the city and collecting also in the Utica Formation immediately underlying this along the Rideau River, Mr. Stewart has discovered a number of rare and even new species in the Trenton rocks, from which he has made an especially valuable collection, comprising beautiful crinoids and cystideans, for which this locality is already so famous in palæontological circles. Besides these he has also made an extensive collection of the species associated in the same formation, most of which are readily identified as Prof. Hall's or Mr. Billings' species and are to be found in the various lists of fossils published by the Club. Detailed notes on these will, we hope, be soon forthcoming from the pen of Mr. Stewart whose activity in connection with the interests of grology, and palmontology more particularly, has been marked, ever since his arrival in Ottawa when he joined the Club. Nor have the old palæozoics of Ottawa been the only rocks examined by him; his field of research has extended to, and has included, the Post-Tertiary deposits of Green's Creek in Gloucester-a locality often cited for interesting material—one which has been made famous by the pen of Sir William Dawson and others. A very interesting specimen of a fish, rarely met with in these deposits, was found by him and is most probably referable to a form ascribed to the genus Cottus in the "Geology of Canada" 1863, p. 917, and which at the present day lives in the Gulf of St. Lawrence and along the Western Atlantic coast. Besides this interesting fish Mr. Stewart has also collected remains of plants and shells characteristic of the above deposit which afford a great deal of promising material for examination.

Mr. Stewart having reported from the Trenton Rocks of Belleville, Ont. (a locality outside of the Club's radius), Cyrtolites compressus, Conrad, for the first time recorded in Canada; Mr. Ami was led to re-examine a form collected by him on the Castor River (vide Trans., O.F.N.C., Vol. II, No. 2, p. 257, 1884-85) on the occasion of a sub-excursion of the Geological Branch, and found it to be the same species. At the latter locality it was found associated with Bucania bidorsata, Hall, Belierophon bilobatus, Sowerby, and other characteristic species of the Trenton formation.

Mr. Sowter reports that during the past year he has examined a number of fossiliferous localities on both the Ontario and Quebec shores of Lake Des Chenes, in the Chazy and overlying Black River formations, but more particularly in the latter. From these he has obtained a fine suite of fossils which he intends shall form the subject matter for a communication or note to be presented at a subsequent Soirée of the Club, and which promises to be a valuable contribution, including as his collections do some rare, choice and, no doubt, unrecorded species from that district.

Mr. Henry M. Ami reports that during the past season he was present at three out of the four general excursions which were held under the auspices of the Club, and on which occasions he acted as leader in geology, besides conducting a number of successful subexcursions, especially in the latter part of the season -- the most favourable for such work. These excursions and sub-excursions were held to various objective points in and about the city, so that nearly all the formations comprised in the Ottawa series were visited and examined-from the Laurentian, so beautifully developed in the hills to the north-to the Post-Tertiary deposits overlying all the intermediate formations included. From these, a number of interesting facts were ascertained and noted respecting the geologic structure of their measures and the organic remains contained in them, whether from the Potsdam, Calciferons, Chazy, Black River, Trenton, Utica or Hudson River, as well as from the fossiliferous Post-Tertiary clays and sands.

Post-Tertiary.—Beginning with these newer deposits, Mr. Ami reports that on account of the numerous excavations for sewers, etc., he has been enabled to obtain a number of interesting sections of the strata from the boulder clay and glacial drift deposits up to the recent overlying sediments. The results thus obtained from various parts of our city, will be embodied in a communication (now in course of preparation) shortly to be presented to the Club entitled: "The Great Ice Age and Subsequent Formations at Ottawa."

HUDSON RIVER FORMATION. - A special visit was paid to the exposures of this formation in October last and a number of interesting forms were found. The collection yielded a number of species new to the list already published in the Transactions of the Club (Trans. O. F. N. C., Vol. II, No. 2, page 258). These were: Pterinea demissa, Conrad, an eminently characteristic species; Strophomena (Streptorhynchus) subtenta, Courad; Platystrophia lynx, Eichwald (Platystrophia bifoviata, Schlotheim, var, lynx, Eichwald and Orthis lynx, Eichwald, of authors); Leptana sericea, Sowerby (very abundant); Calymene senaria, Conrad; a Pleurotomaria, allied to subconica, Hall; a trilobite referred provisionally to the genus Remopleurides, besides portions of Monticuliporoid corals—each of which last three mentioned require further study. The opening which was made in the field to the north of the Canada Atlantic Railway track some three and three-quarter miles from the city has afforded a good many specimens. The beds are light brown or buff weathering, and consist of a fine grained calcareoargillaceous dolomitic paste with some arenaceous material in a finely divided state. The fossils which they contain are tolerably well preserved and abundant—and whilst only some fifteen species have as yet been observed in this formation from that locality there is no doubt that future investigations will increase that number considerably.

UTICA FORMATION.—Most of the attention devoted to this formation has been in the direction of ascertaining what were the species associated in the same band of impure limestone with *Siphonotreta Scotica*, Davidson. Several sub-excursions were held to the locality (mentioned in the Report of Geological Branch, in the transactions of the Club for 1885-86) opposite the Rifle Range on the Rideau River in Gloucester, and no less than sixteen species have already been found in

the same bed. In his "Notes on, and the precise geological position of Siphonotreia Scotica, Davidson," presented and read at the meeting of the Club—February 10th, 1887—Mr. Ami mentioned these species, and the facts obtained were therein recorded. Besides the above a species of graptolites, obtained from the Utica has been placed at the disposal of Mr. Whiteaves, of the Survey, who has had them forwarded to Prof. Lapworth of Mason Science College, Birmingham, the best authority on these interesting fossils, for examination.

The following species are new to the lists already published from the Utica:—

Orthis emacerata, Meek.

Leperditia minutissima, Hall.

Beyrichia oculifera, Hall.

TRENTON FORMATION.—In this formation which is ever teeming with abundance of fine material, a number of good finds were made which require more study before publishing the notes on them. In this connection it may not be deemed out of place to mention the fact that Prof. E. O. Ulrich, of Cincinnati, Ohio, who on several occasions has generously lent his assistance in determining critical species of Polyzoa from our rocks, was in Ottawa during the past summer and made an extensive collection at the Brigham quarries at Hull and in other parts of the Trenton here, so that when all the Polyzoa which he collected are worked up the number of species from that remarkable group of organic as will be considerably increased.

Potsdam Formation.—The exposures of this formation were visited by the Club during the past summer at a general excursion to Buckingham, Que., where, besides collecting a fine series of the typical Scolithus Canadensis. Billings—a number of previously unrecorded facts were obtained on the evidence of glaciation on the quartzites or sandstones of this formation. These sandstones, a bluff of which faces the Laurentian rocks in the immediate vicinity to the north, are seen to be deeply grooved, striated and polished. Of the annelid (?) remains referable to the genus Scolithus, Billings Species, S. Canadensis, was by far the commoner form met, but two very good examples of S. linearis, Hall, were found associated with it. From the notes which Mr. Ami has made on the subject he is strongly of the opinion that the

main difference existing between these two species lies principally in the preservation, S. Canadensis B, occurring as hollow tubes or burrows, whilst Hall's species is found as casts of the interior of the burrow or hole. In comparing the form S. linearis, Hall with the species recorded from the Potsdam formation of L'anse au Loup, Que. (See Pol. Foss. Billings, Vol. 1, P. 2), they are found to be exactly similar and cannot be differentiated.

In conclusion, the leaders are happy to state that there is a vast field of labour before this Branch of the Club, and it is therefore encouraging to note the good work which many members of the Club have performed. It is hoped that the time is not far distant when a good topographical map will exist upon which it will be possible to lay down the geological features of the district in a more or less detailed manner. What is more important at present is to obtain from the excavations being made in all parts of the city the sections which such excavations afford and collect all the fossil evidence possible, whether in the later or earlier formations of this locality, as both are very fossiliferous and problems of vast import relating to the geology of other parts of Canada, problems as yet unsolved, will be materially helped thereby.

To this end, each member can contribute his or her share towards the gathering of material wherewith to frame at some future time a systematic and comprehensive résumé of the geology of Ottawa. In doing so, the members will not only contribute to this, but will materially assist the Council and help the leaders in furthering the work of the Club.

 $\left. \begin{array}{l} \textbf{HENRY M. AMI,} \\ \textbf{T. E. W. SOWTER,} \end{array} \right\} \textit{Leaders.}$

OTTAWA, January 25th, 1887.

REPORT OF THE ORNITHOLOGICAL BRANCH FOR THE YEAR 1886-8).

To the Council of the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club :-

In making up the Report of the proceedings and researches of this branch during the past season the leaders are able to report three additions to the already large list of birds found in this locality. The first was the finding of the Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Tryngites subruficellis, a remarkably interesting little bird with a peculiar aspect. It can at once be recognized by the very small and short bill, and by the unique coloration of the primaries, which are gray or white on the inner webs and beautifully mottled with fine black tracery. Two specimens were shot and six were seen.

The second addition was a fine specimen of the Red Phalarope, Chrymophilus fulicarius. This is an important addition as it is particularly a maritime bird and the finding of this bird following so soon after the discovery of the Purple Sandpiper and the Great Black-backed Gull found last year would lead one to suppose that some of the coast birds are in the habit of following the Ottawa and Rideau Rivers on their way south. To the former we have to add the Blue Goose, Chen carulescens. Three fine specimens were shot within a few miles of the city, two geese and a gander. The peculiar marking of the bill and feet of these specimens are worthy of special mention. Dr. E. Coues in his valuable work states that the bill and feet are lake red, whereas those shot have the bill and feet black. The markings, however, agree in every other particular with Dr. Coues' description and there can be no question as to the specimens taken being Blue Geese. The capture of a pair of the very pretty, but rather scarce Mourning Warbler, is very encouraging. We have also been informed of the shooting of two specimens of the Shoveller Duck, by Mr. W. P. Lett; one at Richmond and the other at Brigham's Creek. This species is very scarce in this district, only some half dozen specimens being reported as having been killed in the vicinity of Ottawa. We have also to report the capture of a female Yellow-beltied Sapsucker, shot on 17th April, 1886, with the top of the head blue-black instead of scarlet. Appended is a list of the dates of arrival and departure of our summer birds.

```
March
           3-Octocorus alpestris, Horned Lark.
  "
          13—Carpodacus purpurcus, Purple Finch.
  "
          26-Merula migratoria, Robin.
  "
          26-Junco hyemalis, Slate-coloured Junco.
  40
          27-Spinus tristis, American Goldfinch.
  "
          27-Loxia curvirostra minor, American Crossbill.
         27—Dryobates pubescens, Downy Woodpecker.
  "
  ..
          28-Lanius borealis, Northern Shrike.
 . ..
          29-Melospiza fasciata, Song Sparrow.
  "
          30-Falco columbarius, Pigeon Hawk.
          31—Quiscalus quiscula, Purple Grackle.
          31—Molothrus ater, Cowbird.
  "
          31-Agelæus phæniceus, Red-winged Blackbird.
  "
          31—Sialia sialis, Bluebird.
  "
          31—Corvus americanus, Crow.
           5—Tachycineta bicolor, Tree Swallow.
April
  "
           6-Glaucionetta clangula americana, American Golden-eye.
  ..
           9-Sturnella magna, Meadow Lark.
          11—Ardea herodias, Great Blue Heron.
  "
          11-Sayornis plache, Phabe.
  "
          12—Lophodytes cucullatus, Hooded Merganser.
  "
          12—Ammodramus sandwichensis savana, Savanna Sparrow.
  "
          12-Poocætes gramineus, Vesper Sparrow.
  "
          12-Spizella monticola, Tree Sparrow.
  "
          12—Scolecophagus carolinus, Rusty Blackbird.
 .66
          13—Progne subis, Purple Martin.
  "
          14-Spinus tristis, American Goldfinch (summer plum je).
          15—Larus argentatus smithsonianus, Herring Gull.
          15—Ectopistes migratorius, Passenger Pigeon.
          15-Regulus satrapa, Golden-crowned Kinglet.
          16-Spizella socialis, Chipping Sparrow.
          16-Regulus calendula, Ruby-crowned Wren.
          16-Zonotrichia leucophrys, White-crowned Sparrow.
  "
          17—Colaptes auratus, Flicker.
  "
          17—Zonotrichia albicollis, White-throated Sparrow.
  .66
          17—Ceryle alcyon, Belted Kingfisher.
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$\Delta pril$	17—Sphyrapicus varius, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker.
~~	19—Passerella iliaca, Fox Sparrow.
u	19—Lanius borealis, Northern Shrike.
"	20—Empidonax minimus, Least Flycatcher.
££	21—Turdus aonalaschkae pallasii, Hermit Thrush.
c c	21-Loxia curvirostra minor, American Crossbill.
"	23—Anas obscura, Black Duck.
ee	23-Actitis macularius, Spotted Sandpiper.
"	23—Falco sparverius, American Sparrow Hawk.
"	23—Charitonetta albeola, Buffle-head.
ee	24—Gatlinago delicata, Wilson's Snipe.
"	26—Philohela minor, American Woodcock.
"	26-Anas carolinensis, Green-winged Teal.
££	26-Totanus melanoleucus, Greater Yellow-legs.
44	27—Aix sponsa, Wood Duck.
	27—Branta canadensis, Canada Goose.
"	28—Botaurus lentiginosus, American Bittern.
66	29Pandion haliactus carolinensis, American Osprey.
"	30-Nycticorax nycticorax navius, Black-crowned Night
	Heron.
"	30—Podilymbus podiceps, Pied-billed Grobe.
"	30—Dafila acuta, Pintail.
May	1—Circus hudsonius, Marsh Hawk.
"	1—Clangula hyemalis, Old Squaw.
cc .	2—Melancrpes crythrocephalus, Red-headed Woodpecker.
tt	4—Dendroica coronata, Myrtle Warbler.
"	5—Ampelis cedrorum, Cedar Waxwing.
"	5—Vireo olivaceus, Red-eyed Vireo.
"	5—Chatura pelasgica, Chimney Swift.
· cc	6—Dendroica æstiva, Yellow Warbler.
"	6—Icterus galbula, Baltimore Oriole.
"	C Maria January III and IV
et	6—Troglodytes aedon, House Wren.
	6—Troglodytes decon, House Wren. 6—Urinator imber, Loon.
ee	
« ««	6—Urinator imber, Loon.

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- May 8-Habia ludoviciana, Rose-breasted Grosbeak.
 - " 8--Mniotilta varia, Black and White Warbler.
 - " 8-Buteo latissimus, Broad-winged Hawk.
 - " 9-Tyrannus tyrannus, Kingbird.
 - " 11—Dendroica carulescens, Black-throated Blue Warbler,
 - " 11-Dendroica maculosa, Magnolia Warbler.
 - " 11-Dendroica blackburniæ, Blackburnian Warbler.
 - " 11-Dendroica pensylvanica, Chestnut-sided Warbler.
 - " 11—Dendroica castanea, Bay-breasted Warbler.
 - " 11-Compsothlypis americana, Parula Warbler.
 - " 11-Seirus aurocapillus, Oven-bird.
 - " 11-Vireo solitarius, Blue-headed Vireo.
 - " 12-Harporhynchus rufus, Brown Thrasher.
 - " 12-Dolichonyx oryzivorus, Bobolink.
 - " 12-Dendroica virens, Black-throated Green Warbler.
 - " 12-Sylvania canadensis, Canadian Warbler.
 - " 12-Galeoscoptes carolinensis, Cathird.
 - " 12-Vireo philadelphicus, Philadelphia Warbler.
 - " 12-Antrostomus vociferus, Whip-poor-will.
 - " 13-Turdus ustulatus swainsonii, Olive-back Thrush.
 - " 13-Myiarchus crinitus, Crested Fly-catcher.
 - " 13—Dendroica tigrina, Cape May Warbler.
 - " 13—Helminthophila perigrina, Tennessee Warbler.
 - " 13—Helminthophila ruficapilla, Nashville Warbler.
 - " 14—Piranga erythromelas, Scarlet Tanager.
 - " 14-Clivicola riparia, Bank Swallow.
 - " 14-Petrochelidon lunifrons, Cliff Swallow.
 - " 14-Ceophlaus pileatus, Pileated Woodpecker.
 - " 17--Virco gilvus, Warbling Virco.
 - " 17-Chordeiles virginianus, Night Hawk.
 - " 18 Sylvania pusilla, Wilson's Warbler.
 - ' 18-Totanus solitarius, Solitary Sandpiper.
 - 19—Turdus noustelinus, Wood Thrush.
 - " 19-Oidemia perspicillata, Surf Scoter.
 - ' 21-Turdus fuscescens, Wilson's Thrush.
 - " 21—Archibutes lagopus sancti-johannis, American Roughlegged Hawk.

May	22—Ægialitis semipalmata, Semipalmated Plover.
"	24—Coccyzus erythrophthalmus, Black-billed Cuckoo.
"	27—Dendroica striata, Black-poll Warbler.
"	28—Porzana carolina, Sora.
"	28—Rallus virginianus, Virginia Rail.
"	29—Geothlypis philadelphia, Mourning Warbler.
June	18—Loxia curvirostra minor, American Crossbill,
July	14-Geothlypis trichas, Maryland Yellow-throat.
ıı.	29—Larus philadelphia, Bonaparte's Gull.
August	3—Passerina cyanea, Indigo Bunting.
"	5—Loxia curvirostra minor, American Grossbilk
41	24—Calidris arenaria, Sanderling.
•¢	24—Erennetes pusillus, Semipalmated Sandpiper.
cc	24-Totanus flavipes, Yellow-legs.
"	24—Totanus melanoleucus, Greater Yellow-legs.
"	24— Egialitis semipalmata, Semipalmate. Plover.
"	24—Tryngites subruficollis, Buff-breasted Sandpiper.
u	24—Tringa minutilla, Least Sandpiper.
**	27—Tryngites subruficollis, Buff-breasted Sandpiper.
ıı	29-Seiurus aurocapillus, Oven-bird.
cc	30—Ampelis cedrorum, Cedar Waxwing.
"	30-Vireo olivaceus, Red-eyed Vireo.
"	30—Sylvania pusilla, Wilson's Warbler.
Sept.	2—Progne subis, Purple Martin.
**	2-Petrochelidon lunifrons, Cliff Swallow.
".	3—Setophaga ruticilla, American Redstart.
"	4-Tachycineta bicolor, Tree Swallow.
**	4—Helminthophila ruficapilla, Nashville Warbler.
**	4—Dendroica striata, Black-poll Warbler.
::	9-Scolecophagus carolinus, Rusty Blackbird.
"	10-Haliwetus lencocephalus, Bald Eagle.
et .	10—Charadrius squatarola, Black-bellied Plover.
~	10-Pandion Indiaetus carolinensis, American Osprey.
"	10-Myiarchus crinitus, Crested Flycatcher.
"	14—Spatula clypeata, Shoveller.
"	14—Turdus aonalaschkae pallasii, Hermit Thrush.

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Sept.
          14—Sayornis phabe, Phabe.
  "
          14—Trochilus colubris, Ruby-throated Hummingbird.
  "
          16—Falco columbarius, Pigeon Hawk.
          16—Spizella socialis, Chipping Sparrow.
  46
          16—Sitta canadensis, Red-breasted Nuthatch.
          17—Myjarchus crinitus, Crested Flycateher.
  "
           18—Cyanocitta cristata, Blue Jay.
  "
          18—Chelidon erythrogaster, Barn Swallow.
  -60
           20—Ceryle aleyon, Belted Kingfisher.
  "
          20-L'oocetes gramineus, Vesper Sparrow.
  ...
          20-Scolecophagus carolinus, Rusty Blackbird.
  "
          20-Compsothlypis americana, Parula Warbler.
  ...
           20—Trinja maculata, Pectoral Sandpiper.
 Oct.
            2—Colaptes avratus, Flicker.
  "
            5-Branta canadensis, Canada Goose.
  "
            5-Accipiter velox, Sharp-shinned Hawk.
  "
            6-Ammodramus sandwichensis savana, Savanna Sparrow.
            6—Tringa alpina, Dunlin.
   6
            6-Tringa minutilla, Least Sandpiper.
   "
            8-Zonotrichia leucophrys, White crowned Sparrow.
            8-Zonotrickia albicollis, White-throated Sparrow.
            8-Spizella socialis, Chipping Sparrow.
            8—Regulus satrapa, Golden-crested Kinglet.
   e:
            8-Regulus calendula, Ruby-crowned Kinglet.
   ..
            9-Falco sparverius, American Sparrow Hawk.
  45
           11—Passerella iliaca, Fox Sparrow.
   ۷:
           11—Chen cœrulescens, Blue Goose.
           16—Tringa fuscicollis, White-rumped Sandpiper.
   "
           16—Lanius borealis, Northern Shrike.
   "
           19—Melospiza fasciata, Song Sparrow.
   4
           21—Crymophitus fulicarius, Red Phalarope.
           23--Spizella monticola, Tree Sparrow.
   "
           23—Sturnella magna, Meadow Lark.
  ٠,
           23—Activis macularia, Spotted Sandpiper.
   ٠, ,
           23—Gallinago delicata, Wilson's Snipe.
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23 - Dendroica coronata, Myrtle Warbler.

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'Oct	. 23—Sialia sialis, Bluebird.
"	23—Junco hyemalis, Slate-coloured Junco.
"	30—Gallinago delicata, Wilson's Snipe.
Nov.	1—Ccophlœus pilcutus, Pilcated Woodpecker.
če	5—Clangula hyemalis, Old-squaw.
et	18—Merganser americanus, American Merganser.
"	18-Sitta carolinensis, White-breasted Nuthatch.
"	19—Plectrophenax nivalis, Snowflake.
"	19—Pinicola enucleator, Pine Grosbeak.
46	22-Accipiter atricapillus, American Goshawk.
"	23-Accipiter velox, Sharp-shinned Hawk.
41	25 — Surnia ulula, Hawk Owl.
	GEO. R WHITE, J. M. MACOUN, Leaders.

10th March, 1887.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The Soiree Committee is arranging a programme for the winter meetings, and requests contributions of papers or notes from the members; titles to be communicated with as little delay as possible, so that the programme may appear in the next number of the Ottawa Naturalist.

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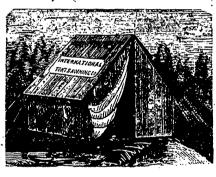
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