

NOTES ON SOME OHIO MAMMALS.

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A few facts regarding some of the Ohio mammals have been brought out in the past year or so. A number of species have been added to the state list and some observations recorded on well known Ohio forms.

The Little Brown Bat, *Myotis lucifugus*, has been taken at Sandusky where it appears to be rather common.

Much has been said about the Cooper Lemming Mouse, *Synaptomys cooperi*, but there does not appear to be a definite published record of its occurrence in Ohio. The past summer the species has been collected in Franklin and Madison Counties. In the former county it was trapped in low grass land and appeared to be common, as nearly a dozen specimens were taken. In the latter county a female and two young were procured from under a log in a low pasture near a stream.

The Prairie Meadow Mouse has been reported as a member of the state fauna but specimens on which this record was founded turn out to be the Pine Mouse, *Microtus pinetorum scalopsoides*. It is doubtful if *Microtus austerus* belongs to our fauna, although it has been taken in western Indiana.

When Brayton wrote his report on Ohio mammals, the Rice-field Mouse, *Oryzomys palustris*, was included on account of a very peculiar record made by Dr. Langdon. A Red-tailed Hawk was shot near New Philadelphia, and in its stomach were found the partially digested remains of what was reported as the Rice-field Mouse. Since that time no living specimen has been reported from Ohio and Rhoades says the species is not found in Pennsylvania. Some years ago two skulls were unearthed at Madisonville and sent to Washington for determination. Dr. Elliot Coues pronounced them to be the skulls of the mouse in question. A year or two ago Prof. W. C. Mills collected a number of skeletons which he unearthed in Ross County, and which prove to be of this same species. Prof. Mills says large numbers of the skeletons were seen and not taken for the reason that he considered them of no special interest, since evidence showed that the animals had crawled into the pits and died there, and as he was studying the food animals of the Aborigines these did not appeal to him. Where the hawk mentioned above got the specimen it had in its stomach is a question. Although one would naturally suppose it to be an Ohio specimen we have no way of proving it. We are certain of one thing, however, and that is the Rice-field Mouse once occurred in numbers over certain parts of Ohio, and the questions that naturally arise are, Is the species a member of our fauna at present, or has it become

extinct in the state? If it is extinct what has caused it to become so?

I am pleased to record for the first time the occurrence in the state of the Prairie White-footed Mouse, *Peromyscus michiganensis*. Specimens were taken in Madison County in 1905, by turning over logs in a low woods pasture.

The Jumping Mouse, *Zapus hudsonius americanus*, was observed to be abundant in certain parts of Summit County last summer. Mr. Eugene F. Cranz captured a number of specimens at Ira. They were found mostly in fields of standing grain and hay.

The Badger, *Taxidea taxus*, has been reported as extinct in the state, but observation the past summer proves it to still be present in northwestern Ohio. In some sections it is common.

Last year at the meeting of the Academy the late Prof. A. A. Wright, gave a paper on the Alleghenian Least Weasel as a member of the Ohio fauna. Since that time a specimen has been received from Summit County, taken by E. F. Cranz who procured it in April, 1905, from a shock of fodder. This specimen was a female in dark pelage. A male trapped December 25, 1905, at Suffield, Portage County, by Orlando Wise, was sent to the O. S. U. Museum by Oscar Himebaugh. The color is white, with the exception of a few reddish patches on the back. So far there are records for six Ohio specimens of this interesting species.
