

**Article XVII.—REMARKS ON A SECOND COLLECTION
OF MAMMALS FROM NEW BRUNSWICK, AND ON
THE REDISCOVERY OF THE GENUS NEOTOMA
IN NEW YORK STATE.**

By J. A. ALLEN.

I.—NEW BRUNSWICK MAMMALS.

The Museum has recently received a second collection of mammals from Victoria County, New Brunswick, made by Mr. John Rowley, Jr., mainly during October (Sept. 27–Nov. 7), 1894. The collection numbers about 250 specimens, and contains representatives of several species worthy of note, including two additional to those obtained last year.¹ Besides large series of Marten (*Mustela americana*), Mink (*Lutreola vison*), and the more common smaller mammals, additional specimens were obtained of *Arvicola chrotorrhinus* Miller, and *Evotomys fuscodorsalis* Allen, and the genus *Synaptomys* was found for the first time in New Brunswick.

The following additions and emendations to the former list of New Brunswick mammals (l. c.) are based on Mr. Rowley's second collection, here under notice.

***Synaptomys cooperi* Baird.** LEMMING MOUSE.—Two specimens, taken as follows: Female, young adult, Tobique Point, near Andover, N. B., Sept. 28, 1894. Total length, 117 mm.; tail vertebræ, 22; hind foot, 21.6. Male, young adult, Gulquac Lake, N. B., Oct. 14. Total length, 105 mm.; tail vertebræ, 21.6; hind foot, 21.6.

The capture of these specimens is of special interest, since it extends the known range of the species far to the northward of

¹ See 'Notes on Mammals from New Brunswick, with Description of a New Species of *Evotomys*.' This Bulletin, VI, 1894, pp. 99–106.

any previously published localities of its occurrence, the most northern of which are Wareham, Mass.,¹ and Alfred Center, Allegheny Co., New York.² In reviewing the known range of this species a few months since³ I ventured the remark that "It evidently occurs in the East over portions of the country where it has escaped all collectors for half a century, since, as compared with other field mice, it proves to be a singularly difficult species to trap." In securing these two specimens Mr. Rowley estimates that he captured at least 1200 Meadow Mice, of which about 97 per cent. were *Evotomys gapperi*; of these latter of course only a small part were saved.

Specimens of *Synaptomys cooperi* in the Museum from other hitherto unrecorded localities are examples from Ravenna, Ohio, and Weaverville, North Carolina.

Arvicola chrotorrhinus *Miller.* RUFOUS-NOSED MEADOW MOUSE.—A single specimen of this species was taken by Mr. Rowley last year (see *antea*, p. 102) at Trousers Lake, N. B. The present collection contains four specimens, three of which were taken at Trousers Lake, Oct. 29 to Nov. 1, and the other at Gulquac Lake, Oct. 16.

Evotomys fuscodorsalis *Allen.* DUSKY-BACKED MEADOW MOUSE.—This species, based on two specimens collected by Mr. Rowley at Trousers Lake last year (*antea*, p. 103) is represented by a series of 16 specimens. Six were taken at Gulquac Lake, Oct. 12 and 13, and 10 at Trousers Lake, Oct. 27 to Nov. 2. They are very uniform in coloration, and so well agree with the type of the species that no detailed account of them is necessary. They are all apparently nearly full grown. Throwing out two that are not mature, the series ranges in measurements as follows: Total length, 133 (127-140); tail vertebræ, 38 (35-41); hind foot, 20 (19-20.5). One very large specimen greatly exceeds these dimensions, measuring as follows: Total length, 152; tail vertebræ, 46; hind foot, 20.5.

¹ Bangs, Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, IX 1894, p. 99-104.

² Merriam, *ibid.*, VII., 1892, pp. 175-177.

³ Abst. Proc. Linn. Soc. New York, No. 6, 1894, p. 17.

Zapus hudsonius (Zimm.). JUMPING MOUSE.—Four specimens, Tobique Point, Sept. 27–29. The three specimens of *Zapus* obtained last year were all *Z. insignis* Miller.

Tamias striatus lysteri. NORTHERN CHIPMUNK.—A series of 6 specimens was obtained in crossing the hardwood ridges of Tobique Point, Sept. 27 to Oct. 3, confirming Mr. Rowley's supposition of last year respecting their presence here (*antea*, p. 104).

Blarina talpoides (Gapper). SHORT-TAILED SHREW.—Represented by a series of 13 specimens, taken at various points in the region traversed, showing the species to be not uncommon, although only a single specimen was met with last year.

The small Shrew recorded in the former list as *Sorex forsteri* is represented by a series of 62 specimens.

No Moles were collected, but Mr. Rowley obtained satisfactory evidence of the occurrence of the Star-nosed Mole (*Condylura cristata*) at Andover and along the Tobique River.

The Mole recorded in the former list as *Scalops aquaticus* is quite as likely to be *Scapanus breweri*—a point which can only be determined by the capture of specimens.

Procyon lotor (Linn.). RACCOON.—An error in the former paper (*antea*, p. 105) respecting the supposed abundance of this species in the Trousers Lake region may be here corrected. The statement there made on Mr. Rowley's authority was based by him on a letter from his Indian guide, whom he had good reason to believe was wholly trustworthy in such matters. It proves, however, that the amanuensis, who wrote from the Indian's dictation, either through misunderstanding or otherwise, inserted the statement in question without the knowledge of Mr. Rowley's supposed informant. Doubtless some other fur-bearing animal was referred to by the Indian guide.

This year Mr. Rowley obtained satisfactory evidence of the occasional occurrence of the Raccoon at Fredericton, N. B., but not in the Trousers Lake region.

II.—REDISCOVERY OF NEOTOMA IN NEW YORK.

Many years since the late Mr. John G. Bell took several specimens of a species of *Neotoma* in the Palisades at Piermont, Rockland County, New York, which were referred by Professor Baird¹ to *N. floridana*. One of these specimens is still extant in the United States National Museum.² So far as known to me no Wood Rats have been taken since at this locality, though it is not improbable that they still exist there, and may be taken by proper methods of trapping.

I have now to record the capture of a specimen on Storm King Mountain, Cornwall, Orange County, N. Y., about fifty miles north of New York City, and about forty miles north of Piermont. The specimen was taken in a figure-four trap by my son Cleveland Allen, Oct. 30, 1894, in trapping for game, with other lads of the Cornwall Heights School, on Storm King. The place of capture was at the base of a cliff, thirty to forty feet in height, at an elevation of about 1000 feet. The cliff is full of deep crevices, and has a talus of loose stones at its base. The place is wooded with young second-growth trees, and is in every way well adapted to the needs of *Neotoma*. Although no other examples have thus far been taken, a small colony evidently lives at this locality.

The specimen proves to be a young male, probably a 'young of the year.' It measured as follows before skinning: Total length, 386 mm.; tail vertebræ, 172; hind foot, 41; ear from notch, 31. It differs from *N. floridana* in its densely haired, sharply bicolored tail, which is black above and white below. It thus resembles *Neotoma pennsylvanica* Stone, to which it is doubtless to be referred. Whether this species is to be referred to *N. magister* Baird, as recently claimed by Mr. S. N. Rhoads,³ may still be an open question, with perhaps the probabilities in favor of Mr. Rhoads's conclusion.

It has often been suggested that the Wood Rats taken by Mr.

¹ Mam. N. Amer., 1857, pp. 489, 490. He says: "A few specimens of unusually large size were captured some years ago [probably about 1850], by J. G. Bell, near Piermont, on the Hudson River, but I have not heard of any in intermediate localities [South Carolina and New York]."

² According to Dr. C. Hart Merriam, in a letter of Nov. 5, 1894.

³ Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila., 1894, pp. 213-221.

Bell may have been brought from the South on vessels, and this theory has at last been put in type by Mr. Rhoads, in the following words (l. c., p. 221): "It is doubtful if *N. magister* ever inhabited the State of New York, and the specimens taken by Mr. Bell were probably imported in a cargo of southern lumber." Apropos of this I may state that Dr. Merriam has recently written to me in referring to the capture of *Neotoma* on Storm King (of which I had previously informed him) as follows: "Sometime ago I examined the original Bell specimen from Rockland County and found it to be *N. pennsylvanica*, as I had supposed—thus removing the theoretical objection which argued against *N. floridana* from so far North."

As is well known, there is an early and rather indefinite record of the Wood Rat in Massachusetts. Thus Dr. George Gibbs, in writing of *Neotoma occidentalis*¹ says, incidentally, . . . "but evidently confound it with the wood rat, now so rare in the Atlantic States, of which I caught a specimen many years ago in Massachusetts." This record now assumes additional interest from the fact not only of the rediscovery of the Wood Rat in New York State, but from the further fact that I have recently received trustworthy information of the capture, last winter, of six specimens at Liberty Hill, in the northern part of New London County, Connecticut. They came to a barn during severe weather and were captured and thrown away. They were described as large brown rats, *with hairy tails and the belly and feet pure white*—a description of a rat that can only apply to a *Neotoma*. Their peculiarities were noted, but they were regarded as simply "strange rats," their scientific interest being unrecognized.²

It hence seems probable that small colonies of Wood Rats may exist at various points in southern New York and southern New England, as well as in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and in the mountains of Virginia, all probably referable to the recently described *N. pennsylvanica*. If seen, or even captured, unless they should fall into the hands of a competent mammalogist, they would be recognized simply as 'rats,' and fail to excite further

¹ Nat. Hist. Wash. Terr., Zool., p. 128, 1860 (P. R. R. Expl. & Surv., Vol. XII).

² I regret to find that the letter conveying this information has been mislaid, and that at this writing I am unable to give the name of my informant, or the exact date of capture of the specimens. The general facts in the case are as above stated, and I have no hesitation in making the record here given.

interest. Localities suited to the habits of Wood Rats should at least receive careful attention, with the chances quite in favor of isolated colonies being here and there met with quite outside of their heretofore supposed range.