

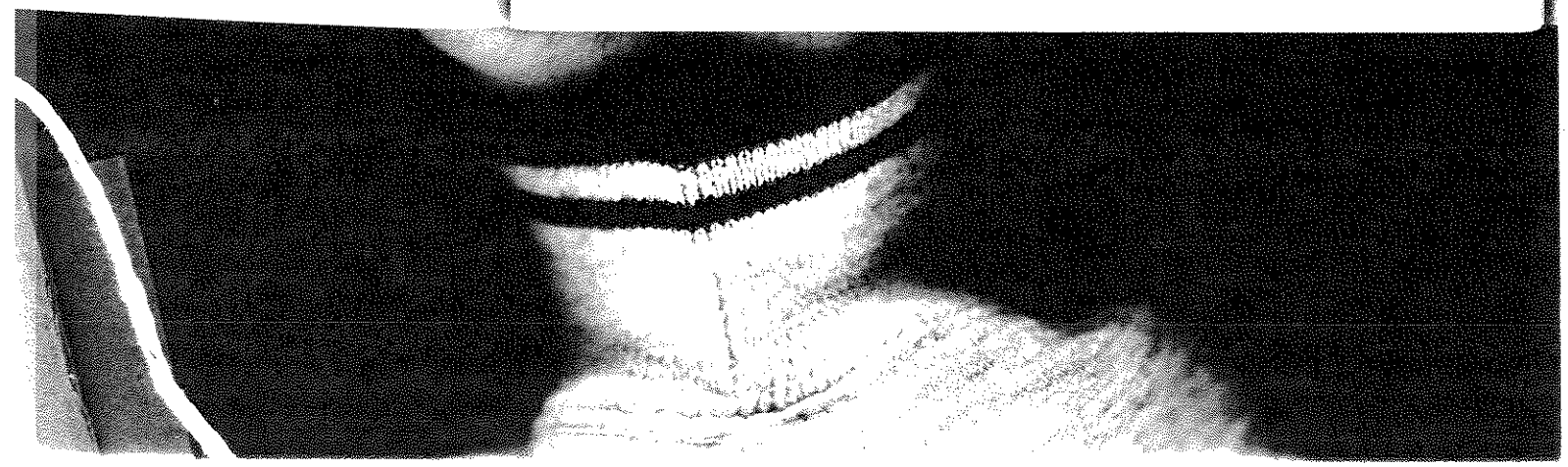
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A VISIT TO DUCK ISLAND.

) Tuckerm.
 near Governor's Bay, Rockcliffe
 1895.
 Ach.)
 limestone and other rocks around
 Perry Point, Aylmer, Que. April 25,
 Ach.
 the Rideau River, at the Hogsback ;
 Mill, Que. May 7, 1897.
 SERPENTINA, Ach.
cinerea in woods west of Hull, Que.,
 cerke.
 the road leading from Aylmer to
 22, 1897.
 CKERM.
 along maples at Ottawa ; also on Kings'
 Mill, Que. May 22, 1897.
 Schrad.
 on the cliffs along the Ottawa, Rock-
 16.
 IS FORMA PUNCTIFORMIS, Branth.
 along the Rideau River, near
 197.
 FORMIS, Eckfeldt.
 along black ash in Billings Bush, April
 (Wallr.)
 along maples in woods near Hull, Que.,
 Branth.
 along Billings Bush, April 19, 1897.

The glorious sun of a September afternoon shone warmly on a group of club members who recently visited Duck Island, the metropolis in the vicinity of Ottawa of the elusive unionidae, vulgarly called clams. The weather was delightful. The water was very low and unruffled and collecting was consequently easy and rapid. The many sand bars which project from the centre of the island towards Templeton wharf yielded the first fruits in fine specimens of *Unio occidentalis* and *Unio borealis*. A little lower *U. complanatus* was found in abundance. Few however of the specimens were of the very large, rayed form, for which the locality is particularly noted. But certain of the shells procured quite equalled the first found in 1881, which for a quarter of a century have increased in loveliness, and form the chief glories of the writer's cabinet. The heavy, inflated, unrayed form of *complanatus*, not occurring elsewhere than at the island, was very numerous, and some fine shells were selected from the thousands whose circular tracks furrowed the sand in every direction, always however with an ultimate trend to deep water. *U. ellipsis*, of small size was common, but there were few mature shells. This species is known in the Western States as "the nigger toe-nail", and is much used in the pearl button industry. Another shell of economic use, which occurred sparsely, is *U. rectus*, called by pearl-ers the "black sand-shell."

U. gibbosus was not uncommon, but not one afforded a mate for the fine pearl found six years ago in a shell of this species collected at the foot of the island. Several large *U. gracilis* were noticed, and a few shells of medium size saved. Of our only other winged shell, *U. alatus*, a single fine specimen was obtained. *U. alatus* and *U. rectus* are remarkable among North American unios for their extensive range—Quebec to Manitoba, and southward far into the Mississippi Valley—and for their constancy of form, under the widely differing conditions of their environments. A few specimens of *Anodonta undulata* were found, and a single fine *A. Benedictii*—the third living shell noted in more than twenty years. The others were found at the mouth of Brigham's Creek. Of the Margaritanas but one was noticed—*M. undulata*.



The shells of this species found at Duck Island are far more beautiful than any shells of the kind found elsewhere. But to *U. occidentens* the prize of Paris must be given. Never probably in any place were so many beautiful fresh water shells obtained in the same brief time as were found on that September afternoon. There were thousands of *U. occidentens* to select from, and many of those left to increase and multiply were abandoned with something of the regret one would feel who was compelled to leave fine pearls behind because one could not carry more away. Red *occidens*—*huitres rouges*—of our boatman, were very numerous, and from this deep and prized tint the changeful species ran the chromatic scale through every shade of orange, yellow and lemon, diversified always with deep green rays, now broad, now narrow, sometimes sparsely, oftener closely set.

The results for the day were upwards of six hundred selected shells of the following species:—

Unio complanatus, Sol.

U. borealis, A. F. Gray.

U. occidentens, Lea.

U. ellipsis, Lea.

U. alatus, Say.

U. gracilis, Barnes.

U. rectus, Lamarck.

U. gibbosus, Barnes.

Margaritana undulata, Say.

Anodonta undulata, Say.

A. Benedictii, Lea.

No attempt was made to secure *A. fluviatilis* from the pond on the island, nor were any of our smaller shells collected.

F. R. L.

THE FULVOUS TREE-DUCK.

In September, 1905, Mr. J. S. Rollins saw eleven fulvous tree-ducks, (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*) on the flats near New Alberni, Vancouver Island and shot five of them. One specimen is in the provincial museum at Victoria. This is the first record for this bird in Canada.

W. SPREADBOROUGH.

Victoria, B. C.