

Estchford

the city about 8.30, and all  
the heat and the mosquitoes,  
king.  
ably from the intense heat,  
n their labors, the occupants  
r a hill or a sandy piece of

W. A. D. L.

TEBELLO.

ason was, owing to the threat-  
y fixed for it, the smallest in  
Only twelve were present,  
ting the branches of botany,  
y. It was intended to go by  
, and investigate the natural  
impracticable to land there,  
le party, who had braved the  
eir researches farther down  
e weather in the meantime  
sionists, after exploring their  
s, set out to do the same by  
the hill behind the village so  
on a nearer approach. With  
ss-covered rocks, and winding  
pen forest glades, its artificial,  
ng a jet of water thirty feet  
the mountain side, and its  
clared it to be one of the most  
ls ever visited by the club.  
f the river and the surround-  
ineau mansion and grounds, in  
il plants of the orchid family  
ers in the other branches had  
of their labors. A feature of

the excursion in which much interest was taken was a competition  
among the younger members of the party in plant collecting, for which  
three prizes were offered. The first was won by Miss Marion Whyte,  
with 97 species; the second by Miss Lillie Ballantyne, with 73; and  
the third by Miss Ida Whyte, with 46. Short addresses were given on  
the boat, while returning, by Mr. Whyte on the plants collected during  
the day, by Mr. MacLaughlin on the insects he had captured, and by  
Mr. Lees on the birds he had observed. The steamer reached the  
wharf about 8 p.m., and the party dispersed, somewhat tired, but  
thoroughly satisfied with their day in the woods and on the water.

W. A. D. L.

REPORT OF THE CONCHOLOGICAL BRANCH, FOR THE  
YEARS 1887-88.

To the President and Council of the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club.

GENTLEMEN,—As no report from this branch was presented last  
year, what I now have the honor to submit covers observations made in  
1887 as well as 1888.

The Ottawa was lower in 1887 than in any year since 1881, and  
as a consequence the many beautiful shells which occur in that river  
were easily accessible. From August to October numerous visits were  
paid to Duck Island, the metropolis of the Unionidæ in this vicinity,  
and large collections of fine shells were there obtained. *Unio occidentis*  
was abundant along both shores of the lower half of the island; and  
from the thousands of this species visible in the shallow water, selec-  
tions were made which rival, if they do not surpass, in variety and rich-  
ness of coloring, any shells procurable from any inland waters in the  
world. Indeed few sea shells equal in beauty this remarkable species,  
which exists in such abundance at our very doors. Why the shell  
should vary so greatly in color under precisely similar circumstances is  
a question not easily solved. Other species from Duck Island vary  
greatly in form, though not in color; while others again are remarkably  
constant; but all the shells found in the vicinity are much finer than I  
have ever observed the same species to be in other localities.

Our commonest *Unio*—the commonest, in fact, of the whole  
Atlantic drainage; *Unio complanatus*—is there found in forms very

different from those occurring elsewhere. One of these, which is undoubtedly entitled to rank as a distinct variety, was first found in 1881; and no specimens were obtained in any year since until 1887. It seems confined to the lower part of the island, and is least rare along the southern shore. The shell is very large for the species, and is marked by numerous, distinct, dark-green rays. The beauty and comparative rarity of this form render it one of the most desirable of our shells. I can suggest no reason why it should so widely differ from the ordinary *Unio complanatus* found in the same locality.

It will doubtless be remembered that Mr. Heron included *Unio alatus* in his list of Ottawa shells, but without stating where it was found. I never observed it until September, 1887, when I obtained a few living examples on the south shore of Duck Island. Mr. Ami informs me that he has taken shells of this species near the same locality, at the mouth of Green's Creek.

Late in the season a great number of *Unio ellipsis* became stranded on shoals opposite Templeton Wharf and perished. Many larger specimens than ever previously noted were observed among the dead shells. One remarkably large and beautiful living example of *Margaritana undulata* was collected in the same locality, as were also a dozen beautiful specimens of *Unio gracilis*.

A list of the *Unionidæ* found at Duck Island will probably be of interest. The following are the shells of this family which I have observed to occur there:—

<i>Unio occidentis</i> , Lea.	<i>Unio gracilis</i> , Barnes.
<i>Unio complanatus</i> , Solander.	<i>Unio ellipsis</i> , Lea.
<i>Unio alatus</i> , Say.	<i>Margaritana undulata</i> , Say.
<i>Unio gibbosus</i> , Barnes.	<i>Anodonta fluviatilis</i> , Dillwyn.
<i>Unio borealis</i> , A. F. Gray.	<i>Anodonta undulata</i> , Say.
<i>Unio rectus</i> , Lamarck.	

The pond on the island teems with the smaller forms of fresh water shells—*Sphaeria*, *Amnicolæ*, *Limnææ* and *Planorbis*. On the whole, Duck Island is undoubtedly the richest collecting ground within the sphere of the Club's operations.

Another locality rich in shells of an entirely different character is Meech's Lake. A few years since two specimens of a very large form