

FAUNAS OF CANADA.

side by the Alaska Pan-handle which has an intrusive Canadian fauna. On the other hand, it works down the Rocky mountains in a narrow band and scattered isolated spots to across the United States boundary. This zone can be considered more as a transition between the Canadian and Arctic zones than a primary division itself. It contains species whose centres of abundance are on either hand and a few peculiar to it. Musk Oxen, Caribou and Ptarmigan range into it in winter from the north, and it forms the extreme northern distribution of Wolverine, Woodland Caribou and Moose. Its most characteristic birds are the Rough-legged Hawk, Great-gray Owl, Northern Shrike, Pine Grosbeak, White-winged Cross-bill and Fox Sparrow.

The Canadian Zone occupies the greater area of Canada and can be roughly defined as the heavy coniferous forest belt. It includes practically all the remainder of the Dominion except the inner shores of the Nova Scotia peninsula, southern Ontario and Quebec in a narrow strip from about Montreal to just below Georgian bay on Lake Huron, the prairies, a small irregular fringe along the Pacific coast opposite Vancouver Island and a few mountain valleys penetrating the southern boundary of British Columbia. Beyond our borders it extends irregularly south on the mountains and high land near both coasts, including the south shores of Lake Superior, and penetrates the Hudsonian Zone on the north along the valleys of the Mackenzie and Peace rivers and runs up most of the Alaska Pan-handle. This is the first land fit for systematic cultivation. The characteristic life is more numerous than in the preceding zones and includes the Moose, Woodland Caribou, Lynx, Marten, Porcupine, Varying Hare, White-throated Sparrow, numerous warblers, Olive-backed Thrush, Three-toed Woodpeckers, Pileated Woodpecker, Spruce Grouse and Canada Jay.

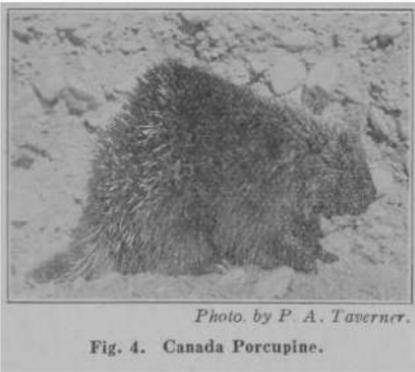


Photo. by P. A. Taverner.

Fig. 4. Canada Porcupine.

The Transition Zone is agriculturally the most important Canadian faunal division. It lies just along the southern border, including most of both shores of the Bay of Fundy, Quebec below the Gulf of St. Lawrence, a narrow belt following the north shores of Lakes Ontario and Erie, all of the western prairies and intrusive valleys into the south of British Columbia and the shores of the Strait of Georgia. The name Transition well describes this fauna. It contains comparatively few distinctive species, but is where many northern and southern forms meet.

Except in the prairies it is the country of the hardwood forests where many of the temperate and harder fruits, vegetables and cereals reach their highest perfection and is the northern limit of some of the tenderer ones. Its southern limit lies in the United States below, striking almost squarely across the continent on a line with the lower points of the Great Lakes, with excursions southward along the mountain ranges east and west and penetrated by extensions of the Upper