

(3½ inches long) of this species, dried, was sent (to him for identification) by Dr. Cooper, in behalf of the Geological Survey of the State of California, as having been given to them with the information that it had been obtained in the State." He notes that the appearance of the specimen led him to believe that it came from China, and in this opinion I would fully coincide, having carefully examined it. The species is provisionally included in this list. At some future time individuals may stray into our Pacific waters.

NOVEMBER 11, 1879.

ON THE HABITS OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN GOAT.

By DR. JAMES C. MERRILL, U. S. A.

FORT SHAW, MONTANA, *October 21, 1879.*

Professor S. F. BAIRD,

MY DEAR SIR: Since I last wrote to you I have passed two months at Fort Missoula, on the eastern limit of the Bitter-Root Range, and while there, finding that the wild goat was comparatively abundant, I made several attempts to obtain a skin and skeleton for the Smithsonian. I hunted them myself for two weeks, but unsuccessfully, only seeing one, and that I did not obtain. At that season they are in the highest and roughest peaks near and among snow, but in the winter come down to the lower slopes and valleys.

You may be interested in the following items concerning this species, which I obtained from trustworthy sources:

Accounts vary as to the *rutting* season and time of dropping the kids, but agree in the latter being two in number. During the summer the male, female, and kids keep together and until the appearance of the next young, though during the winter two or three of these families unite. At this season it is unusual to see more than a dozen together, though large bands are said to have been seen. The goats in all their movements are heavy and slow. They are most successfully hunted with dogs; when started by them they generally climb up the nearest rock and stand them off; and while so doing are easily approached and shot. When wounded and in close quarters they are rather dangerous, and are apt to use their horns with effect. They feed at sunrise and sunset, passing the day on some smooth flat rock in the sun, from which they can keep a good lookout, but rarely start until closely approached. The one I saw was among large masses of rock above snow-line. He got up within thirty yards of me, stood in full view for a moment, and then walked slowly off, almost hidden by the rocks. At first, though so near, I took him for an albino bear (and several old hunters told me they had made the same mistake!!); his large size, slow, heavy movements, and manner of looking back over the shoulder, with the absence of fear, being very different from my preconceived notions of the "white

goat." I very soon saw my error, but not liking to risk a snap shot, tried to head the animal off, but without success. The tracks are enormous for the size of the animal. I found many of their dusting places. The earth is pawed up until quite a depression is formed, in which they roll and lie by the hour. They are somewhat like those of the bighorn, but the numerous very long white hairs left in the dust show the presence of the goat. I spoke to my guide (Charles McWhirk, Corvallis, near Missoula, Montana,) about getting some skins and skeletons this winter, and he said he would do so if any one "made it worth his while." If you desire them I think you had better write to him personally about it. I tried to explain to him how the skins should be prepared. According to the recent order of the War Department he can turn them over to the quartermaster at Fort Missoula, forty-five miles distant, for shipment to the National Museum.

This account is not so complete as I could wish, but I send it as better than none, as the goat is so little known. What I have written applies to their habits in the Bitter-Root Range. They are also found rather plentifully in the main range of the Rockies near Flathead Lake. Several have been caught alive, and the Indians sometimes bring in the kids, but the latter soon die.

Nothing of special ornithological interest here now, but the winter fauna in this latitude will be worthy of study.

Very truly, yours,

JAMES C. MERRILL.

NOTES ON A COLLECTION OF FISHES FROM EASTERN GEORGIA.

By TARLETON H. BEAN.

The United States National Museum received, December 15, 1879, from Mr. A. Graves, postmaster at McBean, Ga., five species of fresh-water fishes, one of which is here described as new to science. Mr. Graves writes that the fishes were collected in McBean Creek, which "is the dividing line between Burke and Richmond Counties, and is within two hundred yards of McBean Station, on Augusta and Savannah Railroad. It empties into the Savannah River, about seven miles from this station." The local names are those transmitted by Mr. Graves. The species of *Centrarchidae* have all been previously recorded by Prof. D. S. Jordan, from Georgia.

1. *Chænobryttus gulosus* (C. & V.) Gill.—"Warm Mouth Perch"; "Yaw Mouth Perch".

23509 *a.* D. IX, 11; A. III, 9.

23509 *b.* D. X, 10; A. III, 9.

The first ventral ray, the tips of the anal, caudal, and dorsal rays, and of the membranes between the dorsal spines are crimson. Speci-