

Table of Measurements—Continued.

	Millim.	100ths.
Caudal:		
Length of middle rays .....		7
Length of external rays .....		17
Pectoral .....		
Distance from snout .....		25
Length .....		ca. 15½
Ventral:		
Distance from snout .....		50
Length .....		ca. 12
Branchiostegals .....	VI	
Dorsal .....	12	
Anal .....	13	
Caudal .....	XIII, 18, XII	
Pectoral .....	18	
Ventral .....	II, 12	
Number of scales in lateral line .....	ca. 60	
Number of transverse rows above lateral line .....	ca. 3½	
Number of transverse rows below lateral line .....	ca. 4	

WASHINGTON, November 23, 1878.

**ON THE OCCURRENCE OF THE OCEANIC BONITO, *ORCYNUS PELAMYS*,  
(LINNÉ) POEY, IN VINEYARD SOUND, MASSACHUSETTS.**

**By VINAL N. EDWARDS.**

Mr. P. Stewart has caught between 80 and 100 of them in his pound\* in about three weeks. He caught 52 one morning. In Luce's pound\* they have caught between 60 and 70. They catch them with a northerly wind; none with the wind off shore. They will not live long in the pound, but will run themselves to death, and their brilliant blue color all fades out as soon as they are dead.

WOOD'S HOLL, MASS., October 1, 1878.

**NOTES ON THE WESTERN GIZZARD SHAD, *DOROSOMA CEPEDIANUM HETERURUM*, (RAF.) JORDAN.**

**By SAMUEL WILMOT.**

SIR: I send you by post a small fish taken by one of our fishermen at Sarnia on Lake Huron. It was sent to me by one of our officers, with a request that I should let him know what sort of fish it was. It seems they think it to be a young shad. Fish very similar in appearance to this one have been known in Lake Ontario and other of our waters for many years; I recollect them forty years ago. They were not taken numerously in those days, a few being captured at times in seines, and sometimes in gill-nets, which were set out in very deep waters in the lake for the purpose of taking salmon trout: those taken in the gill-nets would be sometimes a pound in weight; the great run of them, however,

\*These pounds are in Menemsha Bight, Martha's Vineyard.

never exceeded three to six inches in length. Strange to say, however, that during the past four years these little fish have become so numerous throughout the length of Lake Ontario that millions can be taken in one haul of a seine almost anywhere along the shore of Lake Ontario during the month of June. The whole shore for a long distance out, during this time, becomes so dense with these little fish that people dip them out with their hats,—rather a novel method, but it is a fact, and given for illustration of their immense numbers: vast quantities of them die along the shore. In a few days, sometimes a fortnight, they all disappear, and we see nothing of them again till the following year, excepting an odd one that may be taken at times. They invariably run from two to six inches, seldom larger. They are not prized for food, being seldom eaten, and are not marketable. They have been called here the “Moon Eye”, as they resemble the fish spoken of by me as having been taken in the deep waters, which have always been known by that name. Again, in 1873, 1874, 1875, 1876, and this year, these little fish have been alike abounding in myriads all along the north shore of Ontario. Since that time, the trout and other predaceous fishes have become very scarce in the lake, and these “Moon Eyes” have consequently wonderfully increased in numbers, to such an extent as to spread themselves in the immense number spoken of all along the shore of the lake.

The specimen sent may not be one of these “Moon Eyes”, but the resemblance is very great.\*

Professor BAIRD,

*Commissioner of Fisheries, &c., Washington, D. C.*

NEWCASTLE, November 23, 1877.

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**THE OCCURRENCE OF THE CANADA PORCUPINE IN WEST VIRGINIA.**

**By G. BROWN GOODE.**

The National Museum has obtained from Mr. H. D. Renninger, of Washington, a living specimen of the Canada porcupine (*Erethizon dorsatus* (Linn.) F. Cuv.—var *dorsatus*), captured by him November 13, 1878, near Cranberry Summit, Preston County, West Virginia. This locality is in or near lat.  $39\frac{1}{2}$  N., and this is believed to be the most southern occurrence of the species. The inhabitants of Cranberry have never before known of the occurrence of porcupines in that region.

DeKay stated† that the species ranged south to the northern parts of Virginia and Kentucky. Mr. Allen believes that his statement was founded on a remark of Catesby. Audubon and Bachman write: ‡ “It

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\*The fish received from Mr. Wilmot is the Western Gizzard Shad, *Dorosoma cepedianum heterurum*, (Raf.) Jordan.

†Nat. Hist. N. Y. 1842, 1, p. 79.

‡Quadrupeds of N. America, 1, 1846, p. 286.