

V.—THE STAR-NOSED MOLE (*Condylura cristata*)—ITS BREEDING HABITS, ETC.—BY WATSON L. BISHOP, *Dartmouth, N. S.*

(Read March 18th, 1901.)

The Star-Nosed Mole occurs from Nova Scotia to Indiana and northward, but as far as I am aware is not anywhere abundant. The soil where it is most commonly found is sedimentary and quite near to water. Intervale or meadow land is almost invariably selected as its place of abode. In such a locality, during the spring and autumn months, little mounds of black soil are thrown up in zig-zag rows marking the course of its subterranean roadways.

To dig one of these little fellows out of the ground is no easy task, although the holes are quite easily found and readily followed; there are so many angles and turns that one's labours are seldom rewarded with as much as a glimpse of the little creatures.

On May 22nd, 1890, while having some apple trees planted, I had the good luck to find a nest containing four of the young.

The locality where the nest was found was two miles south of Kentville in King's County, Nova Scotia. The land had been cleared of small forest trees several years before and had grown up with grass and was mowed every year.

The particular spot where the nest was found was a little hillock or cradlehill which had been formed apparently by a tree having been blown down. When the roots had rotted away a small dry mound of soft black sedimentary earth was formed, and in this the nest was built. This mound was high enough to be out of reach of storm-water during wet weather.

The excavation containing the nest was ten inches below the surface, and was made in a circular form, seven inches in diameter. The nest was built of old dry grass, and was very

compact and neatly made. Although the mound contained a complete network of roadways, no earth was thrown to the surface within ten feet of the nest.

The young were probably ten days old, the fur just beginning to start, which gave the skin a dark brown colour. They were at once taken and preserved in spirits, and have since been presented to the Provincial Museum at Halifax (accession. no. 149.)