

ON THE OCCURRENCE OF THE GREAT LAKE TROUT (*SALVELINUS NAMAYCUSH*) IN THE WATERS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

BY DAVID S. JORDAN.

I have lately received from my friend, Mr. Ashdown H. Green, of Victoria, British Columbia, the heads and fins of two large specimens of the Great Lake Trout (*Salvelinus namaycush* Walbaum). One of these specimens has been sent to the U. S. National Museum, where it is numbered 39343, the other is in the collection of the Indiana University. The specimens are not evidently different from the ordinary Lake Trout. They are very dark in color, the gray spots on the tail are very distinct, and the caudal fin is rather more deeply forked than usual in specimens so large. The following is from Mr. Green's letter in regard to them:

"The trout came from Canim Lake, about 20 miles east of the hundred-mile post on the Caribon wagon road. The same fish is, I am informed, found in Lac la Hache on the wagon road and perhaps in most of the large lakes of British Columbia. My attention was first called to it by hearing of a forked-tail Trout very different from *S. purpuratus* or *S. malma*. The forked tail decided me to send an Indian to Canim Lake for specimens. He brought me two, but had unfortunately cleaned them so that I was unable to examine or to preserve the stomach and appendages. Having no means of preserving such large fish I pressed my bean-pot and all my whisky into the service and brought the heads to Victoria. The fish were in good condition; and nearly black, though very much spotted with light gray." These specimens considerably extend the range of *Salvelinus namaycush*. The authentic record farthest westward is that of its occurrence in lakes on the northern boundary of Montana, tributary to the Upper Missouri. It occurs, however, in the waters of Alaska.

Mr. Green also reports the capture of *Salvelinus malma* east of the Rocky Mountains in the South Saskatchewan.

He also mentions the capture of a basket-full of Capelins (*Mallotus villosus*) at Victoria. This species has never before been noticed so far south in the Pacific. It is new to the fishermen of Victoria.

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THE NAVAJO TANNER.

BY DR. R. W. SHUFELDT, U. S. A.

(With Plates XXIII-XXVIII.)

During the summer of 1887, and at a time when the writer was stationed at Fort Wingate, N. Mex., he received a letter from Prof. Otis T. Mason, Curator of the Department of Ethnology, U. S. National Museum, informing him of the fact that there was no special account, so far as he was aware, describing the method by which the North American Indians tan and prepare their buckskin.

As is well known, all of our Indians, from time immemorial, have fully manufactured this material and put it to an infinite number of uses to meet the necessities of the life they lead. So Prof. Mason was thus prompted to contribute to this branch of our literature, and did me the honor of asking me to render an account of the process as it is practiced among the Navajoes, a tribe of which many are found living in the valleys and among the mountains about Fort Wingate.

Circumstances soon admitted of my undertaking this matter. A Navajo hunter was dispatched to bring in a deer, for the purpose of preparing its hide directly under my personal observation, thus allowing me to record carefully each step of the operation.

In a day or two this Indian returned with a fine doe, an antelope of *Cariacus macrotis*. He had skinned the legs of the animal up to the hoofs up as far as the ankles, which he disarticulated at the joints so the limbs could be tied more compactly together, and thus be more easily carried to either frighten his horse or catch in the low timber as he returned home with his game. Strange to say, this was the hardest part of the task to undertake, for the Navajo Indians have a belief that if the animal is not skinned in the spot where the animal was killed, or else the successful hunter will lose his eyesight before the next moon.

I had great difficulty in finding a Navajo that had sufficient faith in this superstition to be overcome by a generous reward. The deer which had been captured for me had already been eviscerated and the skin divided from its chin to its tail—the entire hide of the under side of the animal. He threw it down upon the ground in front of his lodge, and, as I had my camera with me, prepared to photograph it, he called to me and said, "I have brought you a deer, but I have lost my eyesight."