

7.—NOTES UPON AN EXPLORATION ON LONG ISLAND SOUND.

By TARLETON H. BEAN.

[From a letter to Prof. S. F. Baird.*]

We have enjoyed a highly gratifying day of collecting, and our list of species now foots up 53. The Lookout has helped us to increase our store by the addition of 14 species since it came in. The weather so far has been propitious, and everybody seems satisfied. I am sorry that we did not secure the aid of the steamer much earlier, as we hoped to do. However, there are several accessions now of which I feel somewhat proud. We seined two examples of *Fistularia* to-day, besides a species of *Hemirhombus* (or *Platophrys*), and numerous examples of the ovate pompano, *Trachynotus ovatus*. *Bairdiella* is quite common; so, also, is *Synodus fætens*. Two species of anchovy occur—one of them very abundant—in the eastern portion of the bay, and the other not moving so far from the ocean inlet; everywhere these little fishes attract the blue-fish, squeteague, silver gar, and other predaceous species. The silver sides (*Menidia notata*) are excessively abundant everywhere, and serve as food for blue-fish. I have been somewhat astonished to find one of the hakes (*Phycis tenuis*) well distributed in the bay, associated with the tomcod. The tomcod is much infested, in some places, with a lernæan parasite. *Gobiosoma* is very common. The tautog we find in greater numbers as we approach the inlet, and the same is true of the cunner. Young weak-fish (squeteague) are universal except in shoal water. Kingfish (*Menticirrus nebulosus*) are sufficiently numerous wherever we seine, but the young, from an inch and a half to two inches and a half or more in length, were taken in the surf to-day in larger numbers than I have seen before. The scup and the squeteague form the principal catch of the 7 pounds near the Fire Island light. Young sea bass are much more abundant at Wood's Holl than we find them here. The white perch, a comparatively recent arrival in Great South Bay, is becoming gradually distributed, but we have not yet caught a single example in our seines. *Synodus fætens* is a very common species here, reaching all parts of the bay visited by our nets. We do not find young menhaden, and the only clupeoids secured are an occasional half-grown menhaden, one hickory shad (*Clupea mediocris*), and one alewife (*C. vernalis*, probably). The big-eyed eel is one of our treasures.

PATCHOGUE, N. Y., September 30, 1884.

* More detailed and systematic accounts will probably appear in Proc. Nat. Mus., 1885.