

## ADDITIONAL FISHER RECORDS FROM ILLINOIS

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Prior to the recent recovery of a complete mandible and anterior skull section of the fisher, *Martes pennanti*, at the Cahokia Site in Madison County (Parmalee, 1958), this mustelid was known to have occurred only in extreme northern Illinois (Kennicott, 1855; 1859). The Cahokia Site record has established the prehistoric range of this species as far south as central Illinois, the animal probably being restricted to the heavily timbered areas along the major rivers.

On April 13, 1958, Mr. Dale F. Holm grain of Rock Island uncovered a human skeleton in the Crawford Farm Site village (Site Survey No. Ri 81). This historic site is located on the south bank of the Rock River approximately  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles east of Milan, Rock Island County, and was thought to have been occupied between 1790 and 1810 by the Sauk-Fox tribes. A partially complete skull of an adult fisher was found with the burial and, as evidenced by its apparent interment with the Indian, the skull may have been part of a medicine bag carried by this individual. The skull was only moderately well preserved; the cranium, left maxillary and zygomatic were missing (lost during excavation?) and, although the incisors, canines and first premolars had been broken or lost, the remaining teeth were intact. Although a noteworthy record for Illinois, it is possible that

this fisher was originally killed in Wisconsin and carried with the Indian during the tribe's southward movement into Illinois.

Mr. Clarence Claffin, Heyworth, Illinois, a graduate student in biology at Illinois State Normal University, Normal, excavated a portion of a Middle Mississippi village site located on the property of Mr. Albert Kuhlman from September, 1958, to August, 1959. This village site (Site Survey No. Cs<sup>v</sup> 19) is situated immediately west of Clear Lake Slough in the NE $\frac{1}{4}$  of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 33, R11W, T19N, Beardstown Quadrangle, of Cass County; the village and associated mounds are approximately six miles east of the confluence of the Sangamon and Illinois rivers.

Several refuse pits excavated by Mr. Claffin contained quantities of fresh-water mussel shell and bone; remains of the whitetail deer were the most abundant although a variety of species such as raccoon, opossum, beaver, mink, striped skunk, elk, marsh rice rat, trumpeter swan, turkey, catfish, fresh-water drum and pond terrapin were also represented. The author examined only a small sample of the faunal material recovered at this site; most of the determinations listed in the thesis (Claffin, 1959), several of which are highly questionable, were made by Mr. Claffin.

The most notable find was the complete right half of the lower

mandible of *M. pennanti*; premolars 2, 3 and 4, and the first molar were present, and judging by the relatively small size and lack of cusp wear, it probably represents a yearling animal. Like the Cahokia Site specimen, this jaw had not been worked or altered by the Indian, thus reducing the possibility of it being a bartered item from another region. This Cass County record is of significance since it serves to more definitely establish the former range of *M. pennanti* in west-central Illinois. Probably the fisher occurred in limited numbers in the heavily wooded flood plain areas throughout the Illinois and Mississippi river valleys, at least as far south as the St. Louis region.

I would like to thank Mr. Claffin for allowing the Illinois State Museum to retain this fisher jaw in the permanent collections, and for permission to publish this record.

LITERATURE CITED

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