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NOTE UPON *MUS TOMPSONI*, RAMSAY.

By ALLAN R. McCULLOCH, Zoologist.

*Mus tompsoni*, Ramsay, Proc. Linn. Soc. N. S. Wales, vi., 1881, p. 763.

The Trustees have received through the repeated good offices of Mr. C. F. Bolton, of Wagga Wagga, N. S. Wales, a fine series of rats under the name *Mus tompsoni*, Ramsay, together with notes upon their habits and colouration. It includes eight males, half of which are black and the others grey, and six females, four black and two grey. Also six young about 70 mm. in length taken from a nest, all black in colour.

A comparison of both skins and skulls of these specimens, which agree very well with Dr. E. P. Ramsay's description, with those of *M. rattus*, Linn., shows that *M. tompsoni* is a synonym of the latter, a conclusion borne out by the similar habits of the two species.

The Wagga Wagga rats are found about grocers' stores and in stables; a nest containing five young, which was dislodged in a stable, was arranged in a scooped-out hole under the brick flooring, having walls of straw and leaves, followed by a layer of fine shredded bark, and an inner lining of wool, feathers and down.

Mr. K. H. Bennett gave an account<sup>1</sup> of the migrations of this species in the western portion of New South Wales, from which it would appear that it swarmed into this State from Western Queensland and was at the time spreading southwards and eastwards. Examples are in the Australian Museum collection from Queensland, New South Wales, and Tasmania (*M. variabilis*, H. and P.).

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<sup>1</sup> Bennett—Proc. Linn. Soc. N. S. Wales, (2), ii., 1886, p. 447.