

or in the fissures of rocks on the coast of Greenland, &c." The Snowbird is part and parcel of Canada. It typifies the country just as much as the traditional Beaver.

Thousands of these hardy migrants, borne aloft on the breath of the March storms, come each spring, whirling round the heights of Charlesbourg, or launch their serried squadrons over the breezy uplands of the lovely isle facing Quebec—the Isle of Orleans; one islander alone last spring, to my knowledge, having snared more than one hundred dozen for the Quebec, Montreal and United States markets.

The merry, robust "Oiseau Blanc" is indeed the national bird of French Canada; it successfully inspired the lays of more than one of its native poets. In his early and poetical youth the respected historian of Canada, F. X. Garneau, found in the Snowbird a congenial subject for an ode—one of his best pieces—and the Laureate Frechette is indebted to his pindaric effusion "L'Oiseau Blanc" for a large portion of the laurel crown awarded him by the Forty Immortals of the French Academy.

With the ornithologist Minot, I am quite prepared to recognize the Snowflake as "the most picturesque of our winter birds, which often enliven an otherwise dreary scene, especially, when flying, for they then seem almost like an animated storm."

There exists a great variety of color in the plumage of these birds; some, the males perhaps, are more white than the rest, some nearly all white; in others, black and a warm brown is noticeable mixed with the white.

"The black dorsal area is mixed with brown and white, the feet are black, but the bill is mostly or entirely yellowish." Though they seldom perch on trees and are not fond of thickets, but prefer the open country, I have seen flocks light more than once on large trees, elms and others, in the midst of pasture lands at St. Thomas, County of Montmagny.

The eggs, five in number, vary in their coloration, markings and size. The Sn Bunting all disappear from the neighborhood of Quebec with the middle or end of April,