

tomus vociferus (Bp.), I can say that I have found several nests in the Province of Quebec, in latitude 46° . The bird is quite common in the County of Ottawa, P.Q. Mr. W. P. Anderson tells me that he found both the Whippoorwill and the Night Hawk very common in the North-West Territory, some distance north of latitude 49° . Can you tell me whether there is, so far, any record of the Western Grebe (*Podiceps Occidentalis, Linn.*) being taken in Ontario or Quebec? Prof. Macoun, I think, found it north of Winnipeg. Mr. George White, of this city, shot a pair near here last season, but the skins have unfortunately been lost.

W. L. SCOTT.

Ottawa, Ont. April 26, 1882.

Norfolk.—The Western Grebe occurs rarely in the Province of Quebec. I purchased one in the Quebec market.—C.

THE BIRDS OF PREY OF NOVA SCOTIA.

BY J. BERNARD GILPIN, A.B., M.D., M.R.C.S.

He is common, and most probably breeds with us, as he is seen during that season, but I have no note of his nesting. He leaves us during November, the swamps then being frozen, and the mice, reptiles and snakes, his usual food, hibernating. He is seen beating our new mown fields and swamps, but never hunting the shores abounding with shore birds. The females and young are much more abundant than the slate grey male. In his habits he resembles the buzzard, as he does somewhat in bill and claws. In the next family of hawks we have the sharp-shin (*A. fuscus*), Cooper's hawk (*A. Cooperi*), and the Goshawk (*A. atricapillus*). The sharp-shin is, perhaps, our most common hawk. I have noted him in May and in December. Little doubt he breeds with us, though I do not know his nest. Though slenderer than the falcons, his bill lighter, and upper mandible scarcely notched, he is by no means their inferior in audacity and headlong pounce. One broke the glass of Mr. Downs' aviary in attacking a canary, seen through. He will often attack caged birds hanging in country houses, and even enter the city for the same game. Cooper's hawk (*A. Cooperi*), an enlarged model of the last, is very rare. I am indebted to Mr. Egan for notes of one specimen mounted by himself and afterwards sent home to England. I have never seen it myself. The Goshawk (*A. atricapillus*) is common and seen during the

breeding season, though I have no notes of time. A pair wintered near the light-house at Digby Gut, 1880; but this is unusual. The vicinity to the sea would make one suppose they lived upon fish. Few hawks of any species, save eagles, are seen after December, even the fish hawks leave us. One would suppose a duck upon the water would be an easy prey for them, and our winter shores are covered by them; but I have never heard or have read of any hawk making like the fish-hawk what may be called a water pounce. The Goshawk is the type of the great hen hawk of the farmers' wives. He comes out in the open, is not seen beating marshes like the buzzards and harriers, or the sea sands like the smaller falcons, but prowls about the homesteads, coming suddenly with the swiftness of the gale from nowhere, and sweeping a hen or chicken from the very feet of its owner, gone as suddenly as it came, and losing in the deadly rush for a time that caution and wariness which ever keeps him from the vicinity of man. The next Family are the Falcons; a more powerful organisation comparatively; a keener ardor and untamed spirit; the habit of taking their prey with a pounce from a tall tree, or perpendicularly from the air, rather than hunting along the surface; a stronger, shorter, and peculiarly notched bill, and pointed wing, define this family as it were abruptly from the others. It is the type of the highest excellence of the whole order. Of six species inhabiting North America, four are found in Nova Scotia; two probably nesting, the others rare, and as respects the jerfalcon accidental visitors. In *F. Sacer* we miss the old name so long given by naturalists to the falcon of antiquity, but bow to the law that gives to the first scientific discoverer (Forster) the right of the specific name. Of this historical bird, the companion and pet of mediæval princes, the subject of the ancient pseudo science of hawking, with all its complex phraseology, I am indebted to Mr. Downs for my sole note. One specimen was mounted by him some twenty years since, being taken by a vessel on the coast and brought to Halifax, and a second specimen is exhibited this evening by him. They are not uncommon at Newfoundland, being called white hawks, and sometimes stray south of us, into New England doubtless taking the inland route. The duck hawk (*F. communis*), and here again we lose the fine old name *peregrinus*, a bold and beautiful bird, with the eye, toothed bill,