

THE OTTAWA NATURALIST.

VOL. XV.

OTTAWA, JULY, 1901.

No. 5.

THE EXTINCTION OF THE ELK IN ONTARIO.

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(Read before the London Ornithological Section of the Entomological Society of Ontario.)

That the Wapiti (*Cervus canadensis*), commonly called "Elk," once roamed in numbers in the southern part of Ontario which lies between Lakes Huron and Erie, I have positive evidence, but as to what time they lived here or when or by what means their extinction was brought about, I have been able to glean very little information.

The extinction of some animals of our fauna is easily accounted for; the wolf, the bear, the common red deer and the wild turkey were all indigenous to our forest; their death-warrant was signed when the first settler, with his axe, felled the first tree making the little clearance to erect his primitive log shanty. Naturalists do not agree on the cause of the disappearance of the passenger pigeon, which used to be with us in countless millions. I am of the opinion that clearing the forest, and thus destroying its great natural food supply, was the cause. The animals I have named were all here when the first settlers came to the country, but the great elk was not.

The first settlers came into the township of Adelaide in 1832. There were no elk here then, and I have never been able to glean any information from them about this great deer, although I have spoken to many. The most interesting information I have been able to get of this animal is from an Indian on the Kettle Point Reserve, in the county of Lambton. He was an intelligent man and acted as interpreter. He was an elderly man when I spoke to him, perhaps between 60 and 70 years of age. He knows nothing