

In a published list of birds found on the Island of Newfoundland, by Henry Reeks, F.L.S., occur two Western ducks, viz:— the Gadwall (*Chaulelasmus streperus* Linn), and the baldpate (*Mareca Americana* Gmelin). The latter is stated to be a common summer migrant. To our knowledge the former has not yet been shot in the Province of Quebec, and the latter is extremely rare. We would be thankful for further information regarding their occurrence in Newfoundland.

How many species of Black Bass occur in the Province of Quebec? Agassiz described a Black Bass from Lake Superior which attains a large size, averaging from fifteen to thirty pounds. We think he named this species *Huro Vulpus*, and it was at one time common in Ashbridge's Bay Marsh, near Toronto.

WOODCOCK GROUNDS.

We have always found it difficult to procure correct information regarding the best woodcock covers in this Province. Sportsmen who know of good localities which they visit annually, keep quiet on the subject. There are, doubtless, many excellent woodcock grounds within a day's trip from Montreal, and it is our intention when they are discovered, to give the lovers of this kind of sport, the benefit, that they may visit them in proper season. We have been informed that there are several good covers on the south side of the St. Lawrence, viz: La Prairie and Lacadie. On the south side of the Richelieu, at Rouville, St. John Baptiste and St. Pie. That the springs where woodcock occur in the latter region, embrace a circumference of twelve miles. Now, gentlemen, do not be jealous in regard to this matter; give us information that we may be led to localities where good sport can be obtained.

MESSINA QUAIL.

An order has been sent from this city for 200 Messina or migratorial Quail. On their arrival it is intended to release the birds in the neighborhood of Lachine.

What became of the Quail which were brought to Quebec and Montreal last year for acclimatization? We are anxious to hear from those interested in their introduction.

Correspondence.

"THE BARRED OWL."

To the Editor of THE CANADIAN SPORTSMAN AND NATURALIST:

DEAR SIR,—Referring to the article under above heading in January number, the following statement may not be uninteresting to your many readers:—The Barred Owl, *Syrnium nebulosum*, has been taken this winter in and adjacent to this city in unusual quantities. So much so that, that mythical personage yecept "the oldest inhabitant" fails to recall to his or her memory anything like it. The cause of the same occurrence in such abundance in the vicinity of Montreal, you say, may possibly be on account of the House Sparrows, which have multiplied greatly of late; but as we have none of the last mentioned birds in this province, and as this has not been considered by any means a severe season, some other reason must therefore be assigned. The above owl is found here every winter, more or less.

Mr. J. H. Carnall, taxidermist, of this city, has had in his store, this winter, "at one time seventy-five" Barred Owls, and has put up since last November over "one hundred skins." The greater number were captured in the months of November and December last. Can any of your readers account for this phenomenon? In addition to the above Mr. C. has mounted 22 Great Horned Owls, *Bubo Virginianus*; 9 Snowy Owls, *Nyctea nivea*; 12 Saw Whet Owls, *Nyctale Acadia*; 2 Long Eared Owls, *Otus Wilsonianus*; 1 Richardson's Owl, *Nyctale Richardsonii*, and several Hawk Owls, *Surnia ulula*. So you see STRIGIDAE have been well represented. About a fortnight ago *S. nebulosum* was seen in King's Square, situated in the centre of this city.

I am, yours truly,

R. ROWE.

St. John, N.B., March 7, 1881.

The above is from an esteemed friend, a sportsman and a lover of Natural History; one who has an acute eye when viewing Ornithological or other objects. When he says that