

mistaken for a hawk. Length about 14 inches, and girth about 12 inches. Colour of the head and upper portion of the body and tail, dark-brown mottled with greyish-white. Under portion of body and tail of a lighter colour and presenting a more regular appearance, consisting of alternate brown and greyish-white bars or markings. Bill yellow; feet thickly covered with feathers; claws black. There is a ring of black feathers round the face. Found on Nuns' Island, &c.

The present and previous papers, contains notices of all the members of the Order-Raptors, which I have been able to ascertain as *bona fide* visitors in this neighbourhood. It will be seen from the list, that we have the 15 representatives of the strictly diurnal birds of prey—including the falcons or hawks, and the eagles. We have also 11 members of the strigidae or owl family, usually called nocturnal birds of prey.

In concluding my remarks on the birds which have been under consideration, I have little to add to the characters already given. The genus *Falco* is easily distinguished, from all other birds of this group by the prominent tooth on each side of the upper mandible, with a corresponding depression on each side of the lower mandible, into which the tooth fits when the mandibles are closed. The position of the tooth varies; in some species it is near the apex, in others it is central, while in others, it is quite close to the base. The depressions in the lower mandible give the latter a blunted, truncated, or step-like appearance.

The feathers of the hawks and eagles are generally compact and fitting close to the body, and of a yellow or brownish shade. Wings in most are pointed and well fitted either for transporting the bird to some other locality, or for the securing of its prey, the method of procuring which has been well expressed by Cowper in the following lines:—

"Down, down the wind she swims, and sails away,
Now stoops upon it, and now grasps the prey."

The marsh harrier and the hawk owl seem to be the connecting links between their respective families. The sternum or breast bone of the hawk is well worth a moment's study. It is rather long, well rounded, and with a deep keel or ridge beneath. The bones forming the "merrythought" are broad, flat and united together as in an ordinary fowl. These points of structure are entirely different from those found in the members of the Owl family, in which the breast bone is short, flat, deeply indented in the posterior part, and with little or no keel. The clavicles for bones, which in most birds form the "merrythought," in the owls are not united, and are represented by round, slender, pointed bones. These differences in structure will in some measure account for the rather slow flight of the owl, when compared with that of the hawks and eagles. The owls may be easily distinguished by the presence of the facial disc or radical feathers round each eye. The feathers are soft, and rather loosely arranged. The legs and toes are also generally well covered with hair-like feathers. The eyes of the owls are usually large, directed forwards, and with a peculiar absorbing expression, quite in contrast to the piercing expression of the hawk-eye. The front edges, also, of the first three or four long feathers of the wing, have a saw-edged appearance, due to the end of the fibrils of these feathers being bent up. There are also a series of bony plates attached to the posterior basal edge of the skull. These bones, I believe, are not found in the hawks, &c.

The sound or cry of the hawks and eagles may be characterized as a hoarse shriek, while that of the owls is a 'ot, slightly varied according to the species. The owls are most abundant during the cold and wintry months. The time of their occurrence, and the cry which they emit, have been noticed by Shakespeare in his Comedy entitled "Love's Labour's Lost" in the following lines:—

"When icicles hang by the wall,
And Dick the shepherd blows his nail;
And Tom bears logs into the hall,
And milk come frozen home in pail,
When blood is nipp'd and ways be foul,
Then nightly sings the staring owl,
Tu-whit, tu-who; a merry note,
While greasy Joan doth keel the pot."

The Woodpeckers, &c., will be noticed in the next paper.

Geo. T. KENNEDY.

January, 1874.

Personals.

F. A. MEREDITH, LL. D., Principal of McGill University during the years 1846-47, is now Under Secretary of State for the Dominion. Amid the duties of his profession, he finds time for considerable literary work.

J. S. BRIGHAM, M.D., '48, represents the County of Missisquoi in the Local Legislature, Province of Quebec.

HON. ALEX. MORRIS, B.A., '49; B.C.L. '50, and one of the Governors, is Lieut.-Governor of the Province of Manitoba.

BROWN CHAMBERLIN, B.C.L., '50, is Queen's Printer for the Dominion.

Geo. H. BOULTER, M.D., '52, represents North Hastings in the Legislature of Ontario.

EDOUARD LAHERGE, M.D., '56, is representative for Chateauguay in the Local Legislature, Province of Quebec.

HON. R. W. CARROL, M.D., '59, is a member of the Senate from British Columbia.

J. PONSOMBY SEXTON, Q.C., B.C.L., '60, is the Recorder for the City of Montreal.

WILFRED LAURIER, B.C.L., '64, is a member of the Legislative Assembly, Province of Quebec, for Drummond and Arthabaska.

CHAS. H. COOKE, M.D., '66, is engaged in the practice of Medicine in the town of Brantford, Ont.

ASA GORDON, B.C.L., and Elizabeth Torrance medallist, '67, is engaged in the practice of Law at Aylmer, Quebec.

JOSEPH DUBEC, B.C.L., '69, is a member of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba.

JOHN T. FINNIE, M.D., '69, at the last annual meeting of the Caledonian Society, was unanimously elected its President.

R. W. WALLACE, B.A., '72, has charge of the Congregational Church in London, Ont.

DENIS BARRY, B.C.L., '72, was admitted to the practice of Law at a late meeting of the Montreal Bar.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

Just Published.

The Story of the Earth and Man.—By J. W. Dawson, F. R. S., Principal and Vice-Chancellor of the McGill University, Montreal. (Hodder and Stoughton.)—Geology as a science must always prove attractive; its study serves the highest ends, and the facts, suggestions, and conclusions it evolves enlarge and discipline the mind. The several chapters of this treatise were originally prepared for, and appeared in the *Leisure Hour*; and now that they are gathered together, and reproduced, with their illustrative diagrams, they make an exceedingly useful volume—a volume containing an epitome of all the theories from time to time advanced, and the modern arguments peculiar to this many-sided and important subject. The author's method is admirable for its simple straightforwardness; for, while he avoids such technicalities as are likely to confuse the unscientific reader, he leaves nothing untouched which is necessary to a fair—not to say complete—comprehension of the whole science. With commendable reticence, Dr. Dawson has left undiscussed the relation of scientific geology to the Mosaic account of the creation of the world; but on this branch of the subject he has previously written in his "Archæia," and, therefore, the less need to go over the ground a second time. All, however, will agree with him, that geology, to be really useful, must be emancipated from the control of half metaphysical speculation, and delivered from that materialistic infidelity which, by robbing Nature of her spiritual element, makes science dry, barren, and repulsive, diminishes its educational value, and even renders it less efficient for purposes of practical research."

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