

their eggs. During the first week of June we found the eggs fresh and the ducks in good condition.

On walking round a pond, say an acre in area, it would be no uncommon thing to find between thirty and forty duck nests, each nest containing from six to ten eggs.

The distance between the Little Saskatchewan and Bird's Tail Creek is about seventy-five miles, and the breeding country about fifty miles wide, and the whole covered with these duck ponds; so one can imagine the number of ducks hatched in this region.

But Oh! ye sportsmen who go to Le Grand Nord and Lancaster, if you could have one day's shooting in the North-West Territory during the month of September, and see the ducks, prairie chicken, snipe and yellow leg plover which abound in these ponds and their neighbourhoods, you would never again consider a dozen ducks a bag for a day.

Yours truly,

BIRD'S TAIL.

ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

The 81st meeting of the Montreal Branch of the Ontario Entomological Society was held at the residence of the president, G. J. Bowles, on the 8th inst. Mr. H. H. Lyman read a letter from W. H. Edwards, of Coalburgh, West Virginia, who is the author of that beautiful work called "The Butterflies of N. America," asking information in regard to the *Pieridae* of Canada, and comparisons of forms from the cabinets of the members were carefully made for that purpose. Mr. Caulfield read notes on the genus *Calimorpha* found in Canada. Mr. G. H. Bowles, the secretary, having lately gone west to reside, a vote of thanks was carried for his useful services to the Branch.

Our Game.

REPORT ON NOMENCLATURE.

In these seven genera we find only two that possess any marked characteristics not common in a greater or less degree to all others. The ruffed grouse has a well developed ruff, yet others have indications of the same, and feathers over the eye replacing pectinated pro-

cesses, which, however, are present in rudimentary form. The Canada grouse has two less feathers in its tail. Not one of these species noted as being without gular sacs, but show them in rudimentary form, even to the ruffed variety. We find nothing here that does not properly belong to specific instead of generic description; it is merely multiplying genera without cause. If any one species is entitled to special generic classification, it is the ruffed grouse alone. The sub-division of species which has taken place is factitious, and violates the rule of classification and nomenclature before mentioned, being based solely on changes due to climate and habitat, and even then oftentimes only on the abnormal peculiarities of a single individual.

Now as to the nomenclature: *Tetrao* means simply *grouse*, and is applicable to all grouse as a generic distinction. It does not mean *caperealzie*, as some of our ambitious naturalists would make us believe, but grouse generically; and when taken in connection with the specific title, amply and sufficiently explains the individual species. American genera are not recognized abroad. *Tetrao* being now universally adopted by all solid naturalists, and by the Royal Zoological Society, though for a time, and, indeed, until quite recently, they were inclined to run after false gods. When *Tetrao obscurus*, *T. pedicetes*, *T. cupido* (though *pinnatus* would be the better word), or *T. centroceruus* are mentioned, no one can mistake them to mean other than dusky, Canada or spruce, ruffed (or drumming grouse of the shades), Plains or sharp-tailed, pinnated, and sage grouse (inhabiting the centre of the continent). But instead we have *Dendragapus obscurus*, literally the "dusky tree percher;" *Canace canadensis*, the "Canadian songster," so called probably because its voice is almost unbearable; *Bonasa umbellus*, or the "drummer of the shades;" *Pediacesetes phasianellus*, or "the pheasant that builds in the plain;" *Cupidonia cupido*, or the "cupid-like-cupid," (how appropriate), and