

burrows in the earth, but it ascends bushes and trees in search of buds and bark on which it feeds. It also eats certain species of coarse grasses, which grow near water. Indians capture it by pouring water into its holes. The flesh is considered delicate when the animal is fat. It may be a delicacy to the aborigine, but to the white man, its strong flavor is against it. It is easily domesticated. The teeth are strong, and formed similar to those of the Beaver. The linings of the mouth indicate rudiments of cheek pouches. When annoyed it produces a hissing noise. Milk pleases these animals greatly, and they lap it with sounds of pleasure.

GAME IN THE NORTH-WEST TERRITORY.

Last April, Messrs. Bird and Ballendine started for four days on the plains in pursuit of feathered game. The former shot forty-three geese, three swan and fifty ducks. Mr. Ballendine bagged the same amount of geese and swan, but did not care to waste shot on ducks. One of the swans shot by Mr. Bird measured seven feet seven inches from the tip of the wings; four feet three inches from the beak to tail, and weighed twenty-five pounds. It was sent to be stuffed for Chief Factor Clarke of Carleton. What a grand country for the sportsman.

THE BRITISH SKY-LARK IN AMERICA.

Several years ago, a number of Sky-Larks were liberated on Long Island, U.S., with the object of acclimatizing the birds. Nothing further was seen of them until early in May last, one was heard by Mr. John Burroughs, a writer for *Scribner's Magazine*, who says that he sees no reason why the British Sky-lark should not thrive in America as well as in Europe. Acting on this suggestion, Mr. Charles R. Rowe, of Cornwall, England, an enthusiastic admirer of Mr. B.'s writings, has sent him a number of Sky-larks which arrived safely in New York, and have been forwarded to Mr.

Burroughs at Esopus-on-the-Hudson, where they will be set free. The Editor of this journal contemplates having a pair of British Jackdaws sent out this summer. When this bird is properly domesticated, it is doubtless mischievous and a thief, but with these exceptions we will be compensated by its odd tricks.

MONTREAL BRANCH, ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF ONTARIO.

The Eighth Annual Meeting of this Society was held on the 10th of May. The following gentlemen were elected to office for the ensuing year:—

President—Mr. H. H. Lyman, M.A.

Vice-President—Mr. William Couper.

Secretary—Mr. George J. Bowles.

Curator—Mr. George Bowles.

Council, Messrs. Robert Jack (Chateauguay Basin), F. B. Caulfield, and R. Burland.

Several new members were elected, and the Annual Report gave a satisfactory statement of the condition of the Society.

A paper entitled "Notes on some species of *Hymenoptera* occurring at Montreal," was read by Mr. F. B. Caulfield, and another on "Instinct in Insects," by Mr. G. J. Bowles. We regret that want of space prevents us from publishing these papers, but we are glad to say that the study of this interesting branch of Natural History—Entomology—is being zealously carried on by this Society, particularly as regards the insects of the Island of Montreal.

RESOURCES OF THE NORTH-WEST.

Professor Macoun of Belleville, Ontario, who delivered a lecture last March before the "Ottawa Field Naturalist's Club," on the "Geographical Distribution of Plants and Animals of the North-west," enunciated an important law accounting for the well-known heavy crop of grain secured so far north, *i. e.*, "the law of reproduction, which was wonderfully increased as plants approached their northern limit. Hence, the cereals grown in