

o'clock in the morning I noticed a bird with an enormous tail (about twelve inches long) sitting on a bare limb of a poplar tree about 100 yards from me. On closer inspection I found it to be opening and closing its tail, and thinking at once of the Scissor-tailed Fly-catcher that I had read about, I took down notes of its plumage (it was quite tame) and looked it up, and am certain it was a Scissor-tailed Fly-catcher. There was a report that it had been seen about eighteen miles west of the same place two years before, but that may be a mistake.

"The Whip-poor-Will left us about the 6th of September.

"There are a lot of Red-breasted Nuthatches in the fir trees in front of the college just now. They are rather rare.

"On the 18th of June I saw four nests of the Evening Grosbeak about one mile north of Winnipeg, near the Red River, in fact right on its bank. The nests were about twelve or fifteen feet from the ground in some grey willows; they were rather flat and slight, made of sticks and roots and lined with smaller roots. There were only two eggs in two nests and one each in the other two. The eggs are more blotched than those of the Red-breasted and not so spotted, and I fancy they are a little smaller. Unfortunately some rascally boys got at them and left only the trees standing.

"I have seen the Evening Grosbeak in flocks of ten to eighty on the Peace River. The Indians say they always build in Saskatoon willows (*Amelanchier*), though I think there are exceptions."

Ottawa, Oct. 23rd, 1899.

BOTANICAL NOTES.

The herbarium of the Geological Survey has recently been enriched by several very interesting collections of plants from remote or little known regions. Chief among these is Prof. Macoun's very complete series of the plants of Sable Island. These number 190 species of flowering plants and about 50 species of cryptogams. Considering the number of shipwrecks in the vicinity of the island it is surprising that the number of introduced plants growing on Sable Island should be so very small. The few