

## EXTRACTS FROM THE DIARY OF THE LATE ROBT. ELLIOTT.

(Continued from Vol. XIX p. 178.)

Aug. 17. At edge of wood opposite Mossey Cup Island I found in a small rotten stub, nest of flying squirrel; the female and four young about half grown. Nest five feet from ground in abandoned woodpecker's or blue-bird's hole, filled with fine bark strips. The mother came out, passed to top of stub and descended to foot of nearest tree. While I was examining young she came close to hole but again crawled to the top and passed away as before.

Aug. 29. Examined stomach of racoon; killed about 10 P.M. in corn patch. Contents 2-3 green corn, 1-3 insects, chiefly black beetles, but some red-legged locusts. In addition there was about 30 white worms, round, thickness of a knitting needle and about 1 1-2 to 2 inches long. Preserved three. Order Rematidea.

Sept. 1. Fine, cloudless day. Saw alighting on dry, ploughed ground about sixty golden plover. When they rose and circled many times in the air, each time rising higher, they formed an exceedingly beautiful sight, especially when in turning, the sun was reflected in metallic opalescence.

Sept. 13. Found *Botrychium lunarioides*, perhaps var. *obliquum*, at Gough's. The Plover Mills *Veronica* is probably *V. agrostis* but Gray says it is one to two seeded while this is eight to twelve.

Nov. 14. At Foster's saw six grouse, one woodcock and one quail. The last named is now quite scarce in this neighborhood. Mr. F. gave me one egg of whippoorwill which he found in leafy woods in June. There was another one which he left. This one has rather small lavender spots upon a white ground. It is somewhat abnormal on account of the spots.

Dec. 15. The bird shot by Mr. A. Ralph, of sixth concession, London Township about Nov. 15th last is very probably the blue goose, *Chen caerulescens* (Linn). This is important and must not be overlooked.