

THE CANADIAN SPORTSMAN AND NATURALIST.

No. 5.

MONTREAL, MAY, 1883.

VOL. III.

WILLIAM COUPER, Editor.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

We want a continuance of original communications relative to Canadian Natural History, and results from the use of the Rod and Gun, which are always welcome; but it is necessary that manuscripts should be in our possession before the beginning of each month.

COOPER'S HAWK.

(*Accipiter Cooperi*)

An adult female of the above was sent to us by Mr. Woodward, U.S. Vice-Consul at Conaticook, P.Q. On dissection, a full developed soft-egg was found in the ovarium. It appears that the bird was caught by a man who brought it to him in a small wire cage. From these facts we may safely record this hawk as nesting in April in the Province of Quebec.

BROAD-WINGED HAWK.

Buteo Pennsylvanicus

Mr. Woodward, of Conaticook, sent us a female of this species lately; it, also, indicated that it laid its eggs in April, and doubtless nests in the Province of Quebec. The egg of this Hawk is sold to collectors, from \$1.00 to \$1.25.

A YOUNG WEASEL.

On the 18th instant, a small Weasel was brought to me, which was caught while being carried in the mouth of the parent, as a cat is seen to carry its kitten. This fact is new to me, but it may, however, have been noticed by others. The body of this young one is only four inches in length; tail, two inches, and the fur is much finer than in the adult. The dress is in accordance with the adult in summer.—C.

HOW TO LOOK FOR COCOONS OF OUR LARGE MOTHS.

There are some beautiful large silk spinning moths found in Canada, the caterpillars of which feed on various forest and cultivated trees. By obtaining cocoons of these moths, the perfect insects will be procured if the chrysalides are living. About the end of April I collected ten fresh cocoons of probably three species within a space of four acres on Mount Royal. The most common cocoon is oblong, generally spun within a leaf, and they are found attached to twigs about a foot or two above the ground. They are covered with snow in winter, but by careful search they may be easily seen in April or the early part of May. I have found several cocoons of this species destroyed by mice this winter. It is called the Polyphemus moth (*Petea polyphemus*). The most productive localities to find these cocoons are in scattered underbrush partially shaded by large trees. Another oblong cocoon, that of the most beautiful of our large moths (*Actias luna*), is generally found in the spring on the ground under butternut trees. The caterpillar of this moth fails to make a firm attachment to the tree, therefore the cocoons drop to the ground with the fall of the leaf. Although butternut trees are abundant on the Island of Montreal, the *luna* moth is uncommon. The next cocoon is a large one, generally found on trees at various distances from the ground. It produces the largest of our nocturnal moths (*Platysamia cecropia*). There is also another almost similar cocoon rarely found in the vicinity of Montreal, which produces an allied form called (*Platysamia Columbin*). These species are all worth looking after, as they are magnificent insects and the blending of their colours would charm the eye of any artist or lover of nature. The last rare one occurring near Montreal is the Prometheus moth (*Callosamia promethea*), whose caterpillar seems to be a good architect, as the cocoon is firmly attached by a strong silken band to the twigs of trees, from which they are pendant. When they are discovered it will be necessary to climb the tree to procure them.—C.