

among the bushes and settling on the charred logs of trees felled by the fire. We must have been very close to the nest; but it was too dark to find it, though we felt the ground all round.

Several species of Woodpecker are common in Manitoba, notably the Golden-winged, *Colaptes auratus*, which breeds frequently in holes in the trunks of poplar trees in the bluffs.

The Red-headed Woodpecker, *Melanerpes erythrocephalus*, also breeds, but is much less common.

The Short-eared Owl, *Asio accipitrinus*, seemed to be decidedly uncommon. On the evening of August 20th, 1883, just as it was getting dusk, I fired at one sailing overhead. I thought I had missed him, but it was just light enough for us to think we saw him alight in an open spot in a neighbouring field, so we decided to go and look on the morrow; however, the following day was so windy and wet that we did not go till the afternoon of the day after, when we were surprised to see the bird rise, apparently unhurt. It fell to Mr. Seton's gun, and after a careful examination we could not find that it had received any previous injury, except a slight graze on one wing; yet it had been foolish enough to sit moping in one spot for over forty hours with nothing to eat except one large dragon-fly and a great brown cricket, as we afterwards found by dissection.

The Marsh Harrier, *Circus cyaneus hudsonius*, is a very common bird throughout Manitoba, and may often be seen sailing over the prairies, the sloughs, or the wheat-fields. One morning late in August I remember counting a dozen round one house. It must breed there, but Mr. Seton has never discovered a nest. Nearly all the individuals I saw were in the brown plumage; only three or four wore the adult bluish ash-colored dress, but Mr. Seton says that adult specimens are much more often seen at the time of the spring migration. This bird often comes and inspects the settlers' chickens, but seldom carries off any except very young ones—