

THE
Canadian Ornithologist.

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INTRODUCTORY.

THE CANADIAN ORNITHOLOGIST has been established with the object of making it a monthly depository of facts, theories, and anecdotes relating to our feathered friends. It shall be our endeavour to make it popular and interesting to the general reader by eschewing technicalities, and by the introduction of fresh, original, and interesting matter in each issue.

In the succeeding number it is our intention to begin a series of articles descriptive of the appearance and habits of each Canadian bird, with illustrations of many of the species.

THE STUDY OF ORNITHOLOGY.

THE study of ornithology has many attractions, and will prove an unfailing source of pleasure and gratification to all who have the leisure and inclination to pursue it. This branch of natural history has proved deeply interesting to men of the greatest intellect in all ages of the world.

In the oldest books of the Bible mention is frequently made of the eagle, raven, stork, owl, and sparrow. Noah honored the dove and raven with important missions; in Egypt the white ibis was greatly venerated; Herodotus, the ancient historian, frequently refers to the different species of birds that inhabited the various countries through which he travelled; Virgil and other ancient poets discourse sweetly of the dove and swan; Aristophanes, who flourished twenty-three hundred years ago, delighted in the sweet melodies of birds; Aristotle, who will ever be re-