

Natural History.

ORNITHOLOGY OF MOUNT ROYAL.

A ramble over our beautiful Mountain Park, and Cemeteries will well repay students of Ornithology, and Oölogy. The summit is 750 feet above the level of the river, and commands a view of one of the most magnificent landscapes on this continent. The noble river St. Lawrence, is seen for a long distance, and beyond Belœil Mountain rises majestically above the surrounding valley; on the south side, the view is bounded by the long range of mountains in the State of New York.

The writer spent many pleasant days last summer, observing the birds that frequent and breed on Mount Royal, and identified thirty-eight species. Those marked with an asterisk, do not breed on Mount Royal, but are frequently seen there. Several other species were observed, but not having been fully identified, are left out for a future note this coming spring. The following list contains the names of the thirty-eight species identified:—

- Robin.....*Turdus Migratorius.*
- Wood Thrush.....*Turdus Mustelinus.*
- Catbird.....*Mimus Carolinensis.*
- Eastern Bluebird.....*Sialia Sialis.*
- Golden-crested Kinglet*.....*Regulus Satrapa.*
- Black-capped Chickadee.....*Parus Atricapillus.*
- Red-bellied Nuthatch.....*Sitta Canadensis.*
- Brown Creeper.....*Certhia Familiaris.*
- Winter Wren.....*Anorthura Hyemalis.*
- Black-and-white Creeper.....*Mniotilta Varia.*
- Summer Warbler.....*Dendrea Estiva.*
- Chestnut-sided Warbler.....*Dendroica Pennsylvanica.*
- Golden-crowned Thrush.....*Seiurus Aurocapillus.*
- Redstart.....*Setophaga Ruticilla.*
- Bank Swallow.....*Cotyle Riparia.*
- Purple Martin*.....*Progne Purpurea.*
- Cedar Bird.....*Ampelis Cedrorum.*
- Great Northern Shrike.....*Collurio Borealis.*
- American Goldfinch.....*Chrysomitris tristis.*
- Song Sparrow.....*Melospiza Melodia.*
- Snowbird.....*Junco Hyemalis.*
- Chipping Sparrow.....*Spizella Socialis.*
- English Sparrow.....*Passer Domesticus.*
- Indigo Bird.....*Cyanospiza Cyanea.*
- Cowbird.....*Molothrus Ater.*
- Baltimore Oriole.....*Icterus Baltimore.*
- Crow Blackbird.....*Quiscalus Purpureus.*

- Common Crow.....*Corvus Americanus.*
- Kinabird.....*Tyrannus Carolinensis.*
- Phoebe.....*Sayornis Fuscus.*
- Nighthawk*.....*Chordeiles Virginianus.*
- Chimney Swift*.....*Chetura Pelasgia.*
- Ruby-throated Humming }
Bird } *Trochilus Colubris.*
- Black-billed Cuckoo.....*Coccyzus Erythrophthalmus.*
- Downy Woodpecker.....*Picus Pubescens.*
- Yellow-bellied Wood- }
pecker..... } *Sphyrapicus varius.*
- Golden-winged Wood- }
pecker } *Colaptes Auratus.*
- Ruffed Grouse.....*Bonasa Umbellus.*

ERNEST D. WINTLE.

Montreal, Jan., 1881.

THE BARRED OWL.

This bird was, last month, abundant in the neighborhood and city of Montreal. We have no recollection of seeing so many near another city in Canada. It is a day owl, and its occurrence in the vicinity of civilization may possibly be on account of the House Sparrows, which have multiplied greatly of late. The latter are easily caught during the winter, and doubtless a nice morsel for the owls. The common haunts of the Bared Owl are dense woods—they are not pelagic—loving the northern forests, but during winter, hunger will force all woodland animals to retreat from their solitudes. The abundance of the House Sparrow has also induced an unusual number of another enemy to remain in our neighborhood. The Shrike or Butcher Bird. Persons who have read the history of this bird can well understand that he would be a greater foe to the Sparrow than the more clumsy owl. Here we see a natural law faithfully carried out in order that each species may be benefited, even as parasites, retaining an equal balance in their sphere.

THE GRAY SEA EAGLE.

A large specimen was shot on the 28th December, at the village of Cowansville, while in the act of carrying off a chicken from a farm yard. This eagle is the *Haliaetus albacillia* of Cuvier, a bird of doubtful specific position at present. Its habits are similar to that of the Bald Eagle. It is the property of J. I. Newport, Esq., of this city.