

REPORT OF THE ORNITHOLOGICAL BRANCH OF  
THE OTTAWA FIELD-NATURALISTS' CLUB  
FOR 1897-98..

In submitting the report of the leaders of the Ornithological branch of the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club, we trust that it will not be considered amiss if it is prefaced by a few general remarks.

In a city the size of Ottawa, with the great facility which the collections at the Geological survey afford for the identification and comparison of specimens, it is a great disappointment to us, that so few persons take an interest in the study of our birds and their habits. To our knowledge not one boy or girl in the city is making a systematic collection of birds or eggs, nor attempting to study them in the field; and of the members of the Field-Naturalists' club, who are especially interested in birds, none seem to have the time or opportunity nowadays to make more than casual observations, with the exception of Mr. Geo. R. White, who seems to find leisure to make frequent excursions to the field, the results of whose expeditions appear, from time to time, in the columns of the "Naturalist." Much valuable data has been forthcoming from those who have had time for casual observations, only, but we are very desirous that more of our members should find opportunities to get to the woods and take notes on what they see and hear.

Those who have helped the Leaders of the Ornithological branch during the year by the free use of their notes are.—Mr. Geo. R. White, Dr. Jas. Fletcher, Prof. J. Macoun, Mr. W. A. D. Lees, Mr. H. B. Small, Mr. H. S. Marsh, Mr. W. E. Saunders, Mr. F. A. Saunders, and Mr. G. Muirhead, of Hadder Hall, Aberdeenshire, Scotland.

One addition was made this year to the list of Ottawa birds. On the 30th of March, Mr. G. Muirhead shot two female specimens of the Evening Grosbeak (*Coccothraustes vespertina*) in the Rideau Hall grounds. According to McIlwraith this bird has been seen in Ontario but four times, previously. At Toronto