

# THE OTTAWA NATURALIST.

VOL. XVII.

OTTAWA, FEBRUARY, 1904.

No. 11

## OUR EAGLES AND OSPREYS.

Rev. C. J. YOUNG.

The eagle is a notable bird in every country, and the person who takes but little interest usually in the avi-fauna of his neighborhood, after seeing one, is very apt to say to his friend, "I saw an eagle the other day." But we must regretfully admit that this will soon be a remark of the past, so bitter is the war of extermination that is waged against these noble and comparatively harmless birds.

The bald-headed eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) is rapidly decreasing in numbers in Ontario, and the sight of a nest will be almost denied to the rising generation. The golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) has always been a rarity in this province. The former bird is occasionally observed in the winter; one or two are frequently seen in the vicinity of Kingston sailing along the shores of Lake Ontario; inland it is but rarely noticed until spring, on account of lack of food, I suppose. Up to the year 1895 two or three pairs always nested in the woods around Charleston Lake, County of Leeds, Ont.; at the present date one pair may possibly do so. One of these nests was located in a poplar tree, a most unusual building site, fixed in the limbs not more than twenty feet from the ground. The tree grew in a ravine just under the Blue Mountain which overlooks the lake. Another nest was in an oak, near Slim Bay, and which was occupied as lately as the year 1901.

The bald eagle also bred commonly along the St. Lawrence; south of Lansdowne, near Symonds Mt., a nest built in an elm being used for many years. The birds subsequently moved to a tall pine at the head of Landon's Bay, and raised their young