

This experience was ours exactly; the ventriloquial quality was not so marked, but it was present; the height of the flight was about the same, and our bird also described a circle when near the end of its song. I do not know any more satisfying occurrence in the experience of a bird student, than to open a new page in the life history of a common bird, and this is a chapter that is certainly rarely entered upon by anyone.

The time of day at which the song occurs, usually finds us wheeling homewards, if not already at home, and the season for this song is doubtless very short, so that it may be counted among one's rarest ornithological recollections. The Ovenbird has a similar song, fairly well known in the aggregate, but which has been well heard by but few persons. And why not? How many persons know the call of the Sawwhet Owl, which is to be heard near most cedar swamps in March and April? Is it not true that we miss these and many other novel phases of bird life by spending the evening and early night under cover?

NOTES TAKEN IN THE PEACE RIVER, ATHABASKA, AND ADJACENT COUNTRY.

The following interesting letter from Mr. J. A. Macrae, Commissioner to deal with Indians and Half breeds in the Athabaska districts in 1900, has been kindly placed at the disposal of the OTTAWA NATURALIST by Dr. Otto J. Klotz, Astronomer to the Department of the Interior, at whose request the observations were made during Mr. Macrae's official visit to the far north last summer.

"Ottawa, January 22nd, 1901.

"My dear Dr. Klotz—

I have already told you how sorry I am not to be able to bring you back more detailed and useful information from the North, but in case the few observations I am able to report may be of use to you I give them here.

The only thermometrical readings I can give you are as follows :—