

most complete synopsis of North American birds which has yet appeared, is the 9th volume of a report of explorations for a route for a railroad from the Mississippi to the Pacific. The work is got up at the expense of the Government, and the volume referred to, which treats exclusively of Birds, has been prepared under the able superintendence of Dr. S. F. Baird, of the Smithsonian Institution. The new western species are therein minutely described, and for the sake of comparison, those already known on the eastern side of the continent, have also been introduced, which makes the work a complete exposition of all that is at present known of the birds of America north of Mexico. The total number of species described in this work is 716, and it is highly probable that many additions will yet be made of scarce species, which have escaped the notice of travellers. From the Hudson Bay territories we have yet much information to obtain, regarding many species which are familiar to us at certain seasons of the year, but spend the most interesting period of their lives in these remote regions. During the last year Mr. R. Kennicot, a Naturalist of considerable experience, has been sent out under the auspices of the Smithsonian Institution, for the special purpose of supplying the information wanted from this quarter, the result of his researches with the amount of new material already on hand, will be ample for a comprehensive work on this subject, which will, no doubt, appear in due time.

As regards the birds which frequent the vicinity of Hamilton, I would remark, that the changes consequent on the settlement of the country, have produced corresponding changes in the Fauna of this district, many species being now wanting, which were common 30 years ago, and others, which at that time were unknown, having now become quite plentiful.

The older settlers tell us that when Hamilton was but a village, and the farm houses but thinly set along the lake shore, the flocks of waterfowl, which frequented Burlington Bay, were so great as frequently to darken the light of the sun by day, and make the night hideous with their discordant cries. In those days, they say, when money was scarce, the speculative farmer, who wished to add a few waterfowl to the stock of produce he was making up for the Saturday's market, counted the cost of the ammunition before throwing it away; if sure of securing half a dozen ducks at a single discharge, the gun went off, but if only a less number could be got within range, it was taken