

midnight mass in the great temple of nature.' His visits to the farm house are well understood, and if followed by disaster it is usually to the poultry, or to the bird himself if the farmer's boys have the opportunity

Towards the little Screech Owl the feeling is quite different, When the weather gets severe he frequently takes up his quarters inside the barn, and remains there undisturbed till the weather softens in the spring, when he again betakes himself to the woods. During the day he sits on the crossbeams glowering at the people as they come and go, but at night is most active in the pursuit of mice, which at this season form his favorite fare.

There is no doubt that before the country was settled, the sheltered waters of Burlington Bay was a favorite resting place for the vast crowds of waterfowl which annually pass to and from their breeding places in the north, although now that the Beach is traversed by a railroad, along which trains pass daily at full speed, and the bay is constantly dotted with steam or sailing craft moving around for trade or pleasure, these visits are fewer and of shorter duration than in former years. Gulls, Grebes, Loons and Ducks in large flocks are still observed in spring and fall. In the still summer evenings the bumping sound of the Bittern is frequently heard coming up from the marsh, and the little Bittern is common enough in suitable places all round the bay.

Occasionally Swans and Geese are seen, most frequently in spring about the time the ice is breaking up, and in March, 1884, five white Pelicans spent a short time in the open water near the canal, but such visits are made only by birds who seem bewildered or exhausted by adverse winds, or foggy weather.

In the month of May the bay is visited by flocks of the Velvet Duck (*Melanatta Velvetina*). Their large size and jet black plumage make them conspicuous objects on the water in the bright sunny days of the early summer, yet, strange to say, they are not long here till individuals are noticed dead on the beach, and the number of such increases during their stay till I have counted as many as ten or a dozen in a walk of two miles along the shore. The birds are all in excellent condition, and I have heard no satisfactory cause assigned for the mortality which prevails among them. It seems to be confined to this species, and was first observed two or three years ago;—since that time it has been rather on the