

and what is singular those young are larger in their dimensions than the adults. I have known them six inches longer than old male adults. An immature bird shot near Halifax, in January, 1855, measured nearly eighteen feet wing spread, with tail of sixteen inches. He was shot rising from the carcass of a dead horse upon which he had gorged himself. These dimensions exceed the dimensions of the supposed Washington eagle. In studying many specimens, both adults and young, as regards sentillation of tarsus, I found them to vary so much, not only among individuals but in the individual itself, in number, as to be of no use as a typical mark. Audubon makes it a differential mark in the Washington eagle. An eagle about two weeks old, now in Halifax Museum, has twelve on tarsus and twenty on middle toe. The legs of an adult, shot at Digby, 1880, and mounted as candlesticks, has none upon tarsus. One must conclude that they are shed and renewed. In all my examinations of grey or splotted white and brown specimens, I have never seen any but what were the young of the bald. In the list of rapacious birds I have presented to the Institute as inhabiting Nova Scotia, identified by myself or friends, we find that with the exception of the Screech owl (*S. asio*), we have all the New England species of owls as visitants or residents, and this as a rather remarkable exception, as being abundant in New England and Newfoundland, and migratory. Owls are a peculiarly forest family, and our still remaining pine spruce forests, our barrens and lake country, give them shelter and food. The Great Horned owl, (*B. virginianus*) the Barred owl (*S. nebulosum*), the Long and Short-eared owls (*O. vulgaris* and *B. palustris*), and the Saw-whet (*N. Aculeica*) are resident, breeding with us, their nests and young having been taken, or they themselves having been seen during all periods of the year. The more arctic species are our winter visitants, breeding and nesting to the far north. The Great Grey owl (*S. lapponicum*) is a very rare visitant. The Snow owl (*Nyctea nivea*, and the Hawk owl *S. ulula*) appear during some winters, almost in flocks, a thing unusual for birds of prey, and showing great scarcity of food. The Saw-whet (*N. Aculeica*) is seen approaching the clearings during winter, also in flocks, whilst Tengmalm's owl (*N. Tengmalmi*) is very rare. One sees them scarcely ever during the day time in our solitary forests either winter or summer.

During the night we hear them in our summer or fall camp. The fierce feline cry of the Great Horned, or the broader sounding hoots of the Barred, as well as the stridulous squeaks of the Saw-whet. Unless the hunter hides his grouse or hares he may have shot, cunningly beneath the snow, when he returns for them he will find that an unseen but watchful prowler has stripped off feathers or fur, torn and devoured them. This feeling of being watched by the unseen is one of the charms of our alpine forests. If you take your back track in early morning after coming to camp late in the evening, you will find you have been stealthily followed for many a mile by the tracks of the lynx or wild cat. During the night the foxes and the bears, nay even the moose, is warily reconnoitering the intruders, and the owls coming to the camp fire, all prowlers in the dark for what they may pick up. Of the diurnal *Rapacidae*, we find our Province has the usual New England species, yet there are a few noteworthy exceptions. I have never seen the Broad-winged or Pennsylvania buzzard here (*B. pennsylvanicus*), nor the common English buzzard of Richardson (*B. vulgaris*), or the Short-winged buzzard (*B. butoides*). The kites also I have never seen. If they migrate north of us, as it seems they do, they go inland and not along the sea coast. Neither are they winter visitants. A stray Red-tail hawk (*B. borealis*) is seen during winter. But the Goshawk (*A. atricapillus*) may be called a persistent winter visitor. Specimens of him are brought to Halifax frequently at that time. He and his mate, all winter long, frequents the scrubby pines overlooking the Bay of Fundy from the North mountain, and the moose hunters have seen them feeding among the white snow upon the grouse they struck in the forest. Though this family do naturally resolve themselves into harriers, buzzards, hawks, and falcons, some pursuing live game, others pouncing upon it, others picking it from the ground, and taking lizards, frogs, and even insects, yet with the exception of the timid fish-hawk, the only one who takes his live meat, they all will descend to dead meat and carrion. The imperial eagles being the nearest in this to the vultures who never take their game alive. I have never heard of the bald-heads taking their fish alive, whilst the fish-hawk, if he drops his fish will never seek to reclaim it, seemingly having no instinct to catch fish except from the water. To him alone is due, if it is an honour, never