

quills stuck firmly in our buckskin mitts. By poking a stick in one end of the tunnel, we tried to force him out of the other end; but he would have evidently suffered death rather than move an inch. An attempt to smoke him out with a smudge choked and blinded us, but had no effect whatever on the steadfast porcupine. So, not wishing him any real hurt, we at last gave up, and left him to the cold comfort of his wind swept hillside.

An ambition of mine has long been to get a good photograph of a porcupine in his native wilds. They are plentiful enough, but one generally sees them high up in the tree tops or finds them wedged inaccessibly into a crevice in the rocks. One day last summer, however, I came on a fine young specimen wandering along the edge of a beaver meadow, and alas! my camera was at home. Next day I had occasion to visit the same place again, but as I thought there was no chance of seeing the porcupine the second time, and the day was very hot, I decided not to burden myself with a camera. And when I came to the beaver meadow, there were *two* porcupines ambling side by side in the grass. The third day I loaded myself with all my apparatus, and set out for the meadow with high hopes. "The third time is the charm." There was no porcupine there, and I have not seen one since.

NOTES ON THE BIRDS IN AN OKANAGAN ORCHARD.

By J. A. MUNRO.

The following notes apply to a ten acre orchard of mixed fruits on Okanagan Lake, B.C. The fruit trees are planted on a narrow strip of land, at the base of an abrupt rise. Behind this small hill are a series of benches, originally covered with bunch-grass (*Agropyron spicatum*) and now partly sown to alfalfa. Behind these benches is a steep rocky mountain, five hundred feet in height, covered with a fairly heavy growth of Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga taxifolia*) and Yellow pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) with several patches of Quaking aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) and Mountain birch (*Betula fontinalis*). A waggon-road has been built close to the shore of the lake, and on the lake side of this road there is a continuous row of various species of wild fruit; chiefly Black haw (*Crataegus douglasi*) Bitter cherry (*Prunus emarginata*) and Service berry (*Amelanchier alnifolia*).

The summer of 1916 was remarkable for the number of birds that visited the orchard, in excess of the normal population of breeding birds. In spite of the abundance of natural food afforded by the wild fruits, many species showed a marked preference for the orchard crop. Italian prunes, sweet cherries, and several varieties of plums