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WILLIAM COUPER, Editor.

A NEW WORK ON THE BIRDS OF CANADA.

We have received a copy of "Les Oiseaux du Canada," by Mr. C. E. Dionne, curator of the Zoological Museum of Laval University, Quebec. It is a neatly printed volume containing nearly three hundred pages and several wood cuts. The author has adopted the classification and nomenclature of Doctor Coues, and gives a short description of each species with notes upon their distribution, etc. From the title of the work it is evidently intended not to be local; we would like to have seen a more complete account of the birds of the Dominion, many species occurring in Manitoba and other western portions not being included. In note to Brown Thrasher, Mr. Dionne states: "This species is probably not found in Quebec though common in Ontario." This is a mistake, as during the past few years these Thrushes have been abundant in the neighbourhood of Montreal and breed here regularly. The Yellow-throated Vireo is also rather common here in the spring, and the Logger-head Shrike very common, breeding in suitable localities throughout the island. The Meadow Lark is also found in many places in the Eastern Townships. Numerous other errors of distribution also appear but we are not surprised at this, and must expect some years to elapse before local ornithologists will study up the birds occurring in their respective localities and furnish material from which can be compiled a standard work upon the subject.

With regard to the Cow bird, Mr. Dionne states: "Quelques naturalistes ont affirmé que l'Étourneau ne construisait point de nid, qu'il déposait furtivement ses œufs dans des nids de Pinsons, de Fauvettes, etc. C'est une erreur, comme le remarque M. l'abbé Provancher, qui a eu occasion de voir lui-même

plusieurs de ces nids et presque toujours dans les conifères. Il pond 5 ou 6 œufs bleu tendre, tachetés de roussâtre."

That this bird should have abandoned the habit of depositing its eggs in the nests of other birds and taken to nest-building, we are not prepared to credit. If Mr. Dionne can corroborate his statement, it will prove an interesting fact for ornithologists, if not, it is a serious mistake for a writer to make with regard to one of our best known birds.

THE FOX-COLOURED SPARROW.

During my summer visits to the Island of Anticosti and the north shore of the St. Lawrence, I have had many opportunities of watching this beautiful sparrow. In fact it was on the Labradorian coast that I first heard its delightful song, and although the notes are few, they are given in a sweet, clear, distinct tone; but when several males are responding, they seem to cheer and add life to their dreary surroundings; the call is certainly pleasant to the ear of man, more especially when he is alone in a region where the song of no other bird is heard. All this class of birds have their peculiar nuptial notes—that of the White-throated Sparrow is said to represent the words:—*Farmer-pay-the-rent-pay-the-rent*, while those of the Fox-coloured Sparrow sounds to my ear like, *O-dear-dear-pretty-pretty creature*. I do not think it has been found nesting in the Province of Quebec, west of Godbout. As far as I could discover, its summer retreat is in the bays of Anticosti and the woodlands skirting the north coast of the Lower St. Lawrence. It seldom nest on the ground, as those which I found were in small trees on the margin of rivers or creeks not far from the sea. Before the nesting season when pairing, the males will frequently fight as vigorously as the English house