

## DID THE BIRDS REASON IT OUT?

A few years ago I did a good deal of fishing on Round Lake, a sheet of water about two miles in length by from half to three-quarters in width, situated four miles north of Havelock, on the Quebec division of the C. P. R. The lake was then surrounded by a heavy growth of timber, much of which has since been cleared off, and the destruction of the timber has practically ruined fishing in that water. The North River empties into this lake, and it was on its western shore that the circumstance I am relating took place.

A pair of fish hawks of the largest variety had for several years nested in a huge blasted pine standing in the drowned land about fifty yards back from the river. These hawks were most voracious fish destroyers and one or two visits to the neighborhood of their nest revealed bushels of fish bones, bearing ample testimony to their destructive capacity. It was finally decided that in the interest of anglers visiting the lake it would be well to destroy the birds. Many were the ingenious devices planned to effect this purpose, but during the two summers that I was acquainted with what was going on, none of the attempts were successful. If a boat approached that shore there was no way of reaching the tree in which the nest was built, except by landing on the west bank of the river. To reach it in any other way meant a long and arduous struggle through the drowned land and tangled briar bushes. Therefore, the various shooting parties that tried to exterminate the birds used the river as their nearest way to get at them. As soon, however, as a boat would land, a warning note would be sounded by the mate on watch and the bird in charge of the nest would immediately take wing. Sometimes the male bird was at such a height, floating around in the clouds as to be nearly