

Mr. R. F. Kelso, another member of the Club, said that every tree along Johnston Street had its Sapsucker, and from various sources I learned that the birds were equally abundant all over the city. The great majority of the birds were males, though here and there a female was to be seen.

A very conservative estimate of the number of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers in the city would be five thousand; in fact Mr. Beaupre believes that there were far more than this present on the morning of April 17th.

For the next few days the Sapsuckers were still very common in the city, and were still so when I left on April 22nd. After this they decreased rapidly in numbers as my father wrote me a few days later and said that only a few were then to be seen.

The Sapsuckers were very busy on the maple trees (mostly *Acer saccharinum*), and in many cases trees which I examined had rings of holes completely round them, but the holes were not close enough together to "girdle" the trees.

The probable cause of this immense wave of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers striking Kingston lies in the strong gale from the north which was blowing on the night of April 16th, the birds apparently dropping as soon as they had crossed the lake.

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## THE RAPID EXTERMINATION OF THE BALD EAGLE.

By W. E. SAUNDERS, LONDON, ONT.

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There has been a good deal of discussion during the past decade or two concerning the usefulness or otherwise of the various species of birds of prey. As regards the diurnal birds of prey, debate has usually ended in a favorable verdict towards all those that spend the summer in Ontario, with the exception of two species. With reference to this small number which has fallen under the ban, I must say that my faith in the wisdom of the Creator in placing such birds on the earth is too strong to be shaken by any evidence that may be produced to show that somebody has lost a few dollars by these birds in any particular year. However that may be, the subject of this article has never, I think, been condemned as injurious. His daily fare is gleaned mostly from the edges of the large waters, and while his scavenging habits cannot be held up for admiration, yet a substantial plea may be made for the protection of the Bald Eagle on the ground of the added picturesqueness which he gives to the landscape. It is to be deplored that every large bird is a mark for the wanton gunner, and under this head I am sorry to say most of our sportsmen fall, when