

tree, his efforts have proved unsuccessful, unless during a fall of snow, when he has killed three and sometimes four. The same cause produces the same effect on different birds. It may happen, he says, that in districts covered with deep snow for several weeks, during severe winter, these birds, become so emaciated and weak, may stand a repetition of shots from a person determined to shoot grouse even when they are good for nothing, but not when they are in good order.

The Canada grouse or spruce partridge are much similar in their habits to the ruffed grouse. Along the shores of the Bay of Fundy they are much more abundant than the latter, which become scarcer the farther north we proceed, and are unknown in Labrador, where the willow ptarmigan supply their place. The females differ materially in their colouring in different latitudes; in Maine, for instance, they are more richly coloured than in Labrador. Audubon thus describes an encounter he had:—"One day, while on the coast of Labrador, I accidentally almost walked upon a female Canada grouse surrounded by her young brood. It was on the 18th July. The affrighted mother, on seeing us, ruffled up all her feathers like a common hen, and advanced close to us as if determined to defend her offspring. Her distressed condition claimed our forbearance, and we allowed her to remain in safety. The moment we retired, she smoothed down her plumage, and uttered a tender maternal chuck, when the little ones took to their wings, although they were, I can venture to assert, not more than one week old, with so much ease and delight, that I felt highly pleased at having allowed them to escape.

"I have frequently heard it said that these birds could be knocked down with sticks, or that a whole covey could be shot while perched on trees, by beginning at the lowest one; but I have never witnessed anything of the kind, and therefore cannot vouch for the truth of the assertion. The flesh of this grouse is dark, and fit for being eaten only when it has fed on berries."

According to Dr. Richardson, all the thick and swampy black spruce forests between Canada and the Arctic Sea abound with this bird, and considerable numbers exist in the severest seasons as high as the 67th parallel.

Our markets every autumn are generally well supplied with both kinds of grouse, so that we may spare our readers any description of these beautiful birds. The pleasantest and easiest of New Brunswick sport is the "partridge shooting," and in a short time the young birds will be ready, as some are now of good size. Next to the wild Turkey, the ruffed grouse is considered to surpass, as an article of food, all other land birds of America, while to the sportsman and the student of nature its habits are full of interest.