

mistake in his description of the eggs of this species. The egg is larger than that of any other sparrow found within this latitude, and they are completely covered with blotches of a ferruginous tint. Contrary to the habit of sparrows, this nest was built in a low fir tree, about three feet from the ground. The Blackburnian Warbler was common in June in the woods of Natashquan, but no nest was found; it is possible that they pass on to the northern margin of the forest which adjoin the plains to breed. Five eggs of the Ptarmigan (*Lagopus albus*) was noticed strung against the wall of a house in Kegaska. The nest was found in the woods behind the settlement. On the 8th of June, when at Watsheesho we noticed the Canada Jay (*Perisoreus Canadensis*) in company with its young, which were nearly fledged. Being anxious to ascertain what these birds fed on, as their nests must have been formed about the middle of April: four of these were shot, and their stomachs contained abundance of a soft red berry that grows in swampy places on the plains. It is a species of cranberry, which ripens under the snow during winter. They are gathered by the people on the coast who convert them with sugar into a delicious preserve. We will close our present remarks by noticing that the Bald Eagle and the Raven occupy the cliffs near the River Corneille, where they bring forth their young. We will give a list of the Western forms of birds occurring on the Labrador coast, in our next number.

TO SPORTSMEN AND NATURALISTS.

Our periodical is the only one in the Dominion of Canada which professes to devote its columns to pure sport and Natural History. It is within the reach of all who wish to obtain information on these matters. We are anxious to increase our list of subscribers, and therefore ask all lovers of true sport to support it. We solicit correspondence from the Sportsmen and Naturalists throughout the Dominion; also ask them to advance our efforts to sustain

the journal. So far, we cannot complain of our success,—we have some of the best men in the country on list—but doubtless there are many Canadian gentlemen, fond of the rod and gun, who have not seen our magazine. We would therefore consider it an act of kindness if those who have subscribed, would induce their friends to send us their names. The price is one dollar per annum in advance. The back numbers from January can be supplied.

THE RACCOON.—(*Procyon lotor*.)

This quadruped appears to have a wide range, occurring from Carolina to the cold latitudes of the fur country. A male raccoon was shot on the 1st of July, a short distance west of the water wheelhouse of this city, near where a female of the same species was shot last year. The animal is not common on this island. It belongs to the plantigrade section of the *Carnivora*, but though the soles of the feet are naked, it is only while at rest that they are fairly applied to the ground. While in motion the heel is raised, yet the gait of the raccoon is heavy and awkward; its limbs are short and stout, its back is arched, and the body is round, thick, and massive, with a marked fulness about the flanks, adding to its breadth and making the limbs seem shorter than they are in reality. Its fur is of two kinds, a soft full undercoat, and an upper vest of long and rather coarse hair. The general colour is dusky grey, the tint arising from each long hair being annulated with white and tipped with black. The face, cheeks and throat are white, with an oblique black dash across the face, which also spreads round the eyes; the tail has four or five dusky-black rings; the length is about two feet, of which the tail is eight or nine inches. Left to itself the raccoon sleeps in its retreat during the day, rolled up in the form of a ball, with the head placed between the thighs. As evening sets in, he begins to prowl for food; roots, succulent vegetables, insects, worms, birds and their eggs constitute its diet. In captivity, it is easily