

some old tree, or dodging from side to side, first of one branch, and then another, as if possessed with the very spirit of restlessness.

The cry, too, of the Nut-Hatch and the Tree Creeper may be heard, and the "chichadee-dee-dee" of the merry little Black Cap Titmouse is sure to meet the ear of the traveller as he journeys through the woods at this season, while little flocks of the Snow Bird (*Junco Hyemalis*), not the Snow Bunting, will cross his path, scuttling into the nearest pine bushes, and uttering their low, chattering notes.

Moreover, besides the handsome species already described, there are many others of the Owl family to be met with during the winter, although their stay with us is not like that of the snowy owl, exclusively confined to this season. The great Grey Owl (*Syrnium Cinereum*), the Barred Owl (*Syrnium Nervulosum*), as well as the great Horned Owl (*Bubo Virginianus*), that singular species, the Hawk Owl (*Sarnia Utula*), and the little short-eared Owl (*Brachyotus Cassinii*), are to be seen occasionally during this and the succeeding winter months in various parts of Canada.

The Bald-headed Eagle (although now a rare visitor), as well as more than one species of Hawk, frequent the woods and the shores of our lakes throughout the whole winter, and eke out, apparently, a very comfortable subsistence. If we add to this list, those of our game birds, such as the handsome Ruffed Grouse (*Bonasa Umbellus*), the rarer Spruce Grouse (*Tetrao Canadensis*), and the more familiar Quail (*Ortyx Virginianus*), which are all constant sojourners with us, but some, like the Quail, coming nearer to the haunts of man in winter, and we shall find (as I asserted at the beginning of this paper) that even at this inclement season of the year we are not without the cheerful sounds of bird-life, nor are our woods and fields ever entirely deserted, even in winter, by all their feathered denizens.

G. W. A.

Moss Park, December, 1869.

NOTES ON THE WEATHER.

November, 1869, has been unusually cold and stormy, and large quantities of root-crops have had to be left in the field ungathered, the frost setting in so suddenly and severely as not only to freeze them fast in the ground, but also injure them so much that if a thaw set in, they would still have been of little value as food for stock. From the same cause, very little fall ploughing has been done, and cattle have had to go into winter quarters nearly a month earlier than usual. A good deal of snow has fallen, and sleighing has been fair through most of the country a few miles north of the lakes, while along the belt between the lakes and the limestone ridge formation, there has been but little snow. A heavy gale on the 16th did an immense amount of damage to shipping all along the line of navigation from Kingston to Lake Michigan, many vessels being totally wrecked, and several lives lost.

The mean temperature of the month has been

32°·7, which is 4°·2 below the average, and 3°·5 below the average of November, 1868. The highest degree of temperature was 58° on the 3rd, the lowest 13° on the 24th and 25th.

The amount of rainfall was considerable, though slightly under the average, being 2.540 inches, while of snow there have been 10.2 inches at Toronto, a very unusual amount for this month.

Rain has fallen on 9 days, and snow on 18. There have been two days clear, 7 partially cloudy, and 21 completely so. The prevailing winds have been North and West.—*Canada Farmer*.

Arts and Manufactures.

A PERFECT WATERPROOF.

The "Lounger" of the *Illustrated Times* says: "By the way, speaking of waterproof, I think I can give travelers a valuable hint or two. For many years I have worn India-rubber waterproofs, but I will buy no more, for I have learned that good Scottish tweed can be made entirely impervious to rain, and, moreover, I have learned how to make it so; and for the benefit of my readers, I will give the recipe: In a bucket of soft water put a half pound of sugar of lead, and half a pound of powdered alum; stir this, at intervals, until it becomes clear, then pour it off into another bucket, and put the garment therein, and let it be in for twenty-four hours, and then hang it up to dry without wringing it. Two of my party—a lady and a gentleman—have worn garments thus treated, in the wildest storms of wind and rain, without getting wet. The rain hangs upon the cloth in globules. In short, they were really waterproof. The gentleman, a fortnight ago, walked nine miles in a storm of rain and wind, such as you rarely see in the South; and when he slipped off his overcoat, his under clothes were as dry as when he put them on. This is, I think, a secret worth knowing; for cloth, if it can be made to keep out wet, is, in every way, better than what we know as waterproof.

CLEANSE THE CELLARS.

Every cellar should at least twice a year have a thorough cleaning out. Everything movable in it should have its position changed with this view, and the sides and ceilings of the cellar should be carefully brushed down and one or two heavy coats of whitewash applied. Early winter—we may say at this very time when outdoor labor is pretty much over—should be appointed for the first cleaning. The other should take place in April, when the vegetable matter and meat-pickle imperatively require attention.

In both cases the cleansing should be thorough, and the cellar made to appear as clean and sweet as any room in the house.—*German Town Telegraph*.