

THE BIRDS OF OTTAWA.

BY C. W. G. EIFRIG.

The first list of the birds of Ottawa, published by members of the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club, appeared in the third number of the Transactions of the Club, pages 29-34. It was prepared by Messrs. G. R. White and W. L. Scott, and enumerates, as a result of their observations up to 1881, the sum total of 169 species, four of which were later cancelled as erroneous. The second general list, which was to fix the ornithological knowledge of the district for some time, appeared ten years later, 1891 (OTTAWA NATURALIST, Vol. V., April, 1891). Additions, migrations and seasonal lists have since been published.

Then why this new list? A number of reasons make it desirable. 1. Quite a number of additional species have been added since the list of 1891, which enumerates 224 species, the present one 246. 2. The status of quite a number of species has since then been found to be different than given, *e.g.*, many are given as migrants for the district which have since turned out to be summer residents, *i.e.*, breeders. 3. The surroundings of Ottawa, and therewith the haunts of birds, are being changed so rapidly by man, that it seems desirable to make another record of the favorite localities for birds in the neighborhood as they existed in the first decade of the twentieth century, before they are no longer recognizable. 4. Many of the present members of the Club do not possess those early volumes, and many have repeatedly requested the writer to prepare a new list. Besides, it is a labor of love for the writer, who during six years spent all available leisure time in the study of the birds of the region. Never will those delightful hours and days be forgotten, when, whether in the fields or swamps, or woods, or on the lakes of the district, the birds furnished him with varied and interesting experiences, and allowed him many a glimpse into the wonders and mysteries of nature.

The members of the Club who reside at Ottawa, of course, know the topography of the region around the city and even casual visitors to the Capital are filled with pleasant recollections when hearing names like Britannia, Aylmer, Rockcliffe, Experimental Farm, etc., favorite resorts for Ottawans in the neighborhood, where also many of the observations recorded in this list were made. But, for the ever-increasing number of members living far from Ottawa, I quote from the introduction of the second list, pp. 31-32: "The district covered by this list is embraced within a circle of thirty miles radius, with the city of