

Stuffing Birds.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER:

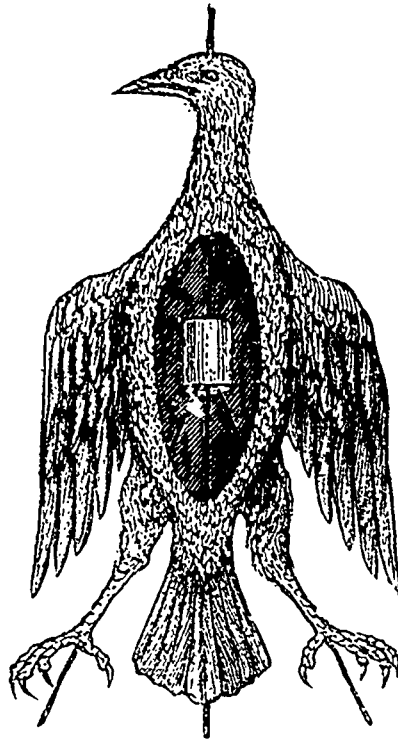
SIR,—For the information of those of your readers who may wish further instruction in the art of Taxidermy, I will now proceed to give directions for stuffing birds; and will take just as an example the Pigeon, for skinning which instructions were given in a former article. Let us suppose the bird just skinned with the skull attached. I will treat on mounting dried skins some other time. The first thing is to replace the skull after it has been well anointed with the arsenical soap and inside with solution of corrosive sublimate. The bird is now laid on a table with the head towards the left hand, and the legs and wings adjusted to their proper situation. A pound weight is laid on the tail, while the feathers of the margins of the opening are raised by the forefinger and thumb of the left hand to prevent their being soiled. The inside of the neck is now coated with arsenical soap; flax, tow, or cotton is then stuffed into it, but not too tightly. The back and rump are next anointed, and the body should be partly stuffed with tow, putting in about one-third the quantity that would be required to fill up the whole carcass. The simplest way to form the carcass is to take a cork from a wine bottle, say 1½ inch long by one inch in diameter; put a straight piece of annealed wire the whole length of the bird, from head to tail, then bend a piece of wire the shape of the letter V, and push it through the cork from the end which you intend for the head, leaving the projecting ends long enough to reach beyond the longest toes. You may now wind the cork with tow, or cotton, forming an artificial carcass. Then you put the wire through the neck, running through the skull; then push the wires through the legs, that is between the skin and the bone on the back side, and through the soles of the feet. Lastly, thrust the tail-bearer, or wire to support the tail, into its place; then finish stuffing. The skin is now brought together and sewed up, taking the greatest care to separate the feathers at every stitch. The orbits of the eyes are next finished, by inserting a little chopped cotton, attention being paid to round the eyelids properly. The glass eyes are now inserted, taking care to insert them properly under the eyelids. But before fixing the eyes, a little calcareous cement must be used to prevent them from coming out. The stuffing of the bird being now finished, the next thing is to place it on a piece of plank, by boring two holes for the reception of the wires which have been allowed to protrude from the soles of the feet for fixing the bird. These, of course, are pierced in such a situation as is necessary for the attitude or position of the legs. The wires are put through these holes and twisted so as to secure the bird in its position. The attitude of the bird will of course depend upon the fancy and taste of the operator, and ought to be in conformity with the habits of the bird in a living state. The leg wires are to be bent something like the letter Z, as in the skeleton. Give the neck and head its proper shape; smooth all the feathers down, and set it in some airy place to dry, and then your work is done.

The following is the composition of the
ARSENICAL SOAP.

Arsenic in powder	2 pounds.
Camphor	5 ounces.
White Soap	2 pounds.
Salt of Tartar	12 ounces.
Powdered Lime	4 ounces.

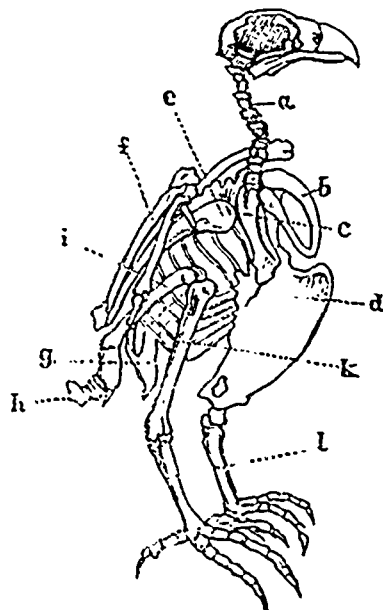
The soap must be cut in small and very thin slices, put into a crucible with a small quantity of water, and held over a gentle fire, and frequently stirred with a wooden stick or spatula. When it is properly melted, the powdered lime and salt of tartar must be added and thoroughly mixed. It must now be taken off the fire, the arsenic added gently and stirred. The camphor must then be added and stirred; but it must first be reduced to a powder by beating it in a

mortar, with the addition of a little spirits of wine. This must be added while off the fire. It may then be held over the fire to assist in making the ingredients incorporate properly, but must not be much heated, as the camphor will very rapidly escape. It may now be poured into glazed earthen pots, and allowed to cool, after which a piece of paper should



be placed over the top; and over this some sheep leather; then set aside for use. The composition is about the thickness of flour paste. When it is necessary to use the soap put as much as will answer the purpose into a preserve pot, and an equal proportion of water. This is applied to the skin or feathers with a bristle brush.

N. B.—It should be kept as close as possible, and used with caution, as it is a deadly poison.



As a guide to the correct anatomy of a bird, which should always be borne in mind in forming the carcass and fixing the attitude, the accompanying outline of the skeleton of a falcon is given, with lettered references. a, cervical vertebrae; b, clavicle; c, coracoid bone—an appendage to the clavicle or collar-bone peculiar to birds; d, sternum or breast bone; e, humerus; f, ulna; g, portions of the ilium or hip bones, h, sacrum, and os coxagus; i, femur, or thigh bone; k, tibia; l, tarsus.

A. B. B.

Entomology.

Entomological Society of Canada.

THE Annual General Meeting of this Society was held, by invitation of the London Branch, at their rooms in the City Hall, London, Ont., on the 7th of July; the President, Prof. Croft, of Toronto, occupying the chair. The following members were present: Messrs. Croft, Sangster, Clementi, Bethune, and Osler, from the Parent Society; Messrs. Saunders, Reed, Barker, Griffiths, Puddicombe, Denton, Chapman, Waterman and Simpson, of the London Branch.

The minutes of the last meeting, the reports of the Quebec and Toronto Branches, and the Financial Report were read and adopted. After the reading of letters of apology from various members, and other communications, the meeting proceeded to the election of officers for the ensuing year, with the following result:

President—Prof. Croft, D.C.L., Toronto University.

Vice-Presidents—Johnson Pettit, Esq., Grimsby; Wm. Saunders, Esq., London.

Ex officio Vice-Presidents—Rev. O. Brunet, President Quebec Branch; J. M. Denton, Esq., President London Branch.

Secretary—Treasurer—Rev. C. J. S. Bethune, M.A., Credit, Ont.

Curator—W. H. Ellis, Esq., M.A., Toronto.

Council—G. J. Bowles, Esq., Secretary Quebec Branch; E. Baynes Reed, Esq., Secretary London Branch; J. H. Sangster, Esq., M.D., Normal School, Toronto.

A number of eminent Entomologists in the United States were nominated for election at the next meeting as Honorary Members of the Society; the number of such members is limited by the Constitution to twenty-five. A discussion then took place respecting the publication by the Society of a small periodical to contain the transactions of the Society and serve as a medium of intercommunication among Entomologists in this country. It was finally unanimously resolved that a periodical, to be entitled the "Canadian Entomologist," should be issued by the Society, under the editorial management of the Secretary, the Rev. C. J. S. Bethune, and be distributed gratuitously to members of the Society, and at the rate of fifty cents per volume of twelve numbers to non-members.

After a couple of hours adjournment the meeting re-assembled at 8 o'clock p.m., and proceeded to the examination, comparison, and discussion of Longicorn Coleoptera (*Gerambycidae*), or wood-borers. Large and interesting collections of this family of insects were exhibited by Messrs. Saunders, Croft, Bethune, Reed, Sangster, and Clementi; among them were to be seen specimens of nearly all the 127 species enumerated in the Society's printed list, and also a few more species new to Canada, as well as some foreign specimens from the United States and Mexico. A few new species of Lepidoptera were also exhibited, while on the table were some powerful microscopes, and a number of handsome works on Entomology, including an unpublished volume of plates by Mr. Townsend Glover, all of which attracted a great deal of attention. Notwithstanding the intense heat, which the members almost vainly endeavoured to modify with ices and other cooling refreshments, a very pleasant and instructive evening was spent.

The following day, Wednesday, July 8th, was devoted to a very pleasant Entomological Field-day and Pic-Nic. The heat, though still great, was tempered by a most refreshing thunder storm during the previous night, and nature looked all green and fresh and bright. After a few miles drive into the country, the chosen spot was reached, and the members betook themselves to the woods, fields, and river side, in quest of their fly game; two or three