

The limitation and the number of species compelled me to select a few from the many, and while the selection has been made somewhat at random, the species mentioned will fairly represent the various phases of the bird-life of the localities to which the present volume is limited—the fields and groves of the Eastern Provinces. Among the species that have been omitted are many that are well known in all the provinces, such as the chipping sparrow, goldfinch, purple finch, cedar waxwing, cuckoo, phoebe, grackle, kingfisher and the woodpeckers. I should have preferred to have added these and others, and was deterred solely by the desire to make a small book that could be sold at a small price, and thus be available to a large number of readers who might be prevented from purchasing a more expensive work. I have consoled myself for the omission by the promise that if the present volume commends itself to the public and is accorded an appreciative welcome another volume shall be prepared at once, for the omitted species will fill a book about the size of the present volume.

Some species mentioned here are not equally common in all the provinces, but I have intended these books to represent the avian fauna of the provinces as a whole; and while it may be said in a general way that the same species of birds occur in all suitable localities throughout the settled portion of this eastern division of the Dominion, from the Atlantic shore to the eastern border of the prairies—that the birds found in Nova Scotia occur also in Ontario—the statement requires some explanation.

The difference in the conditions of climate and of environment in the southern peninsula of Ontario to those which obtain in the more northern districts of the country—the difference between latitude 43° and latitude 48°, or thereabouts, is so great that many of the birds find a suitable breeding place in portions only of the area lying between these parallels. For this reason some species