

## REPORT OF THE ORNITHOLOGICAL BRANCH FOR THE YEAR 1886-87.

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*To the Council of the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club :—*

In making up the Report of the proceedings and researches of this branch during the past season the leaders are able to report three additions to the already large list of birds found in this locality. The first was the finding of the Buff-breasted Sandpiper, *Tryngites subruficollis*, a remarkably interesting little bird with a peculiar aspect. It can at once be recognized by the very small and short bill, and by the unique coloration of the primaries, which are gray or white on the inner webs and beautifully mottled with fine black tracery. Two specimens were shot and six were seen.

The second addition was a fine specimen of the Red Phalarope, *Chrymophilus fulicarius*. This is an important addition as it is particularly a maritime bird and the finding of this bird following so soon after the discovery of the Purple Sandpiper and the Great Black-backed Gull found last year would lead one to suppose that some of the coast birds are in the habit of following the Ottawa and Rideau Rivers on their way south. To the former we have to add the Blue Goose, *Chen caerulescens*. Three fine specimens were shot within a few miles of the city, two geese and a gander. The peculiar marking of the bill and feet of these specimens are worthy of special mention. Dr. E. Coues in his valuable work states that the bill and feet are lake red, whereas those shot have the bill and feet black. The markings, however, agree in every other particular with Dr. Coues' description and there can be no question as to the specimens taken being Blue Geese. The capture of a pair of the very pretty, but rather scarce Mourning Warbler, is very encouraging. We have also been informed of the shooting of two specimens of the Shoveller Duck, by Mr. W. P. Lett; one at Richmond and the other at Brigham's Creek. This species is very scarce in this district, only some half dozen specimens being reported as having been killed in the vicinity of Ottawa. We have also to report the capture of a female Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, shot on 17th April, 1886, with the top of the head blue-black instead of scarlet. Appended is a list of the dates of arrival and departure of our summer birds.