

flesh as well as in the pocket. In compensation there are other species which furnish us with food and raiment, and many which are objects of exquisite grace and beauty.

W. HAGUE HARRINGTON,  
J. B. TYRRELL,

*Leaders, Entomological Branch 1882-83.*

16th March, 1883.

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### REPORT OF THE ORNITHOLOGICAL AND OÖLOGICAL BRANCH FOR THE SEASON OF 1882.

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

The leaders have much pleasure in reporting that during the past year a number of members of the Club have taken an active part in the local development of Ornithology and Oölogy, and that some important work has been done.

In order to facilitate work, sub-excursions were held periodically during the collecting season, to various localities in the vicinity of the city. On two of them, held on the 24th May and 19th July respectively, the nesting place of a colony of great blue herons (*Ardea herodias*, L.), was visited. This heronry (which is known to have existed for many years, having been visited by the Ottawa Natural History Society in 1868), is situated on the north bank of the Ottawa River, about half way between McCaul's Bay and the village of Thurso, and is distant about 25 miles from the city. It is located in the centre of a thick swamp, which, on the occasion of our first visit, was so deeply submerged as to bar all ingress. On the 19th July, however, the water was but knee deep. After proceeding about half a mile into the swamp, our attention was arrested by a peculiar sound, which we at first thought must proceed from some distant saw-mill, or steamer on the river. As we advanced, however, the sound resolved itself into most extraordinary noises, some of which strongly resembled the barking or yelping of dogs or foxes. On penetrating still deeper into the swamp, we discovered that the noises proceeded from immense numbers of herons, some perched on the branches of the trees, some sitting on their nests, and