

A DESCRIPTION OF THE

# BIRDS OF ONTARIO,

—BY—

THOMAS McILWRAITH.

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## ON BIRDS AND BIRD MATTERS.

BY THOS. McILWRAITH.

Although the subjects brought before the Association during the present session have been both numerous and varied, it is somewhat remarkable that no branch of the animal kingdom has yet come up for consideration. With the view of introducing this department of Natural History, and thinking that it might be a pleasing change for you to pass from the consideration of sewage and other unsavory, though all-important subjects, which have recently engaged your attention, I have availed myself of the opportunity offered, of asking you to spend an hour with me among the birds. The subject is a very attractive one, the objects which it embraces being always near us, varied in form, beautiful in color, and possessed of the most wonderful instincts, to mark the exercise of which is a continual source of delight.

A treatise on Ornithology, in the highest meaning of the term, is beyond the scope of this paper, as it would require us to go back half-way through the geological periods, where we would find the early forms of bird life very different from those we see around us at present.

It is not my purpose to follow the subject in this direction, nor to attempt giving you a highly scientific dissertation, made unintelligible by the use of unpronounceable technicalities. I would much