

siders that the birds while moving along the coast of Carolina had been blown to sea by a heavy gale and from thence driven in our direction. For several days after this occurrence, the birds were abundant from this Province to Rhode Island. In November, 1890, Mr. Purcell obtained a single specimen.

AMERICAN ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK (*Archibuteo lagopus sancti-johannis*). This bird has been becoming more rare than formerly, but during the past season several were taken. Two (a male and a female) were brought to Mr. Purcell, at different times, by "Josh" Umlah, who lives about seven miles from the city. I saw them both "in the flesh." The male was taken in a trap or snare about December 10th or 11th, 1891, and the female was shot on New Year's Day, 1892. Umlah said there was also a black-coloured hawk about his place: this was evidently one of the same species, but of the melanistic phase of plumage. About the middle of January, 1892, George Umlah of Harrietsfield shot a very dark-coloured hawk, but failed to bring it out of the woods, excusing himself on the ground that, as it was almost crow-black, he thought it would be of no interest. This was doubtless another of the very rare, dark individuals, a variety which is known by the name of "Black Hawk." Mr. T. J. Egan tells me that he had four of the birds in immature plumage, and of the adult or melanistic colour. They were all taken in the early part of 1892.

SAW-WHET OWL (*Nyctala acadica*). This pretty little owl which is becoming a rarity in Nova Scotia, was very frequently observed during February, 1892.* I do not attribute this to an increase in number, but rather to the fact that, owing to a great scarcity of their usual food, the birds were forced to leave the woods and come to the vicinity of dwellings. Just previous to February 18th, I recorded six which were observed by various people about my own home. Of this number two or three were picked up dead—evidently starved to death. In a single week preceding February 19th, Mr. Purcell received three specimens, one of which was found dead beneath a quantity of lumber on one of the city wharves. Mr. Downs informs me that several

*The ground was then covered with snow.