

REPORT OF THE ORNITHOLOGICAL AND OOLOGICAL
BRANCH FOR 1887.

GENTLEMEN,—In presenting the Annual Report of the Ornithological and Oological Branch for the season of 1887, the undersigned beg leave to state that during the past season a considerable amount of work has been done but with very little result in the way of obtaining new specimens, only two having been procured. One a specimen of the Common Brant, *Branta bernicla*, which was shot by Mr. P. Thompson (of this city) last fall on a sand bar some 30 miles down the Ottawa River. This bird, Mr. Thompson informs us, he compared with the colored plate in Audubon's great work on Birds and found it to agree in every particular. The other was a fine female specimen of Swainson's Hawk, *Buteo Swainsoni*, shot by Mr. G. White flying over a swamp some three miles from the city. A pair of "Cacuwees" (*Harelda glacialis*) in the breeding or summer plumage was obtained last spring for a slight consideration by Mr. E. White from a person who had just shot them in the Rideau River. We might say, for the information of those who are unacquainted with the bird, that in the winter plumage the head and neck are white and the long narrowly lanceolated scapulars pearl gray; in the summer plumage these parts are black. As this species breeds in the north and is seldom found here except in the fall and early spring, it is very unusual to see the birds in the breeding plumage. On the 1st of November a small flock of White-wing Crossbills was observed feeding on some pine cones near the city.

On the 4th August several of the Common or Red Crossbills were noticed. As these are supposed to be winter birds it is rather surprising that they should be found here during the summer months, and the question naturally arises what are they doing here, and why do they leave the delightful climate of the North Pole?

Several specimens of the beautiful and rare "Cape May Warbler" have been obtained and also of the Mourning Warbler, which leads us to believe that they are not so rare here as had been supposed.

On the 27th August a specimen of the Common Tern was obtained on the Ottawa River, making the second found here within two years.