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## CHANGES IN THE STATUS OF CERTAIN BIRDS IN THE VICINITY OF MONTREAL, P.Q.

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The following notes refer to the local abundance of certain birds that are gradually extending their breeding range in a north-easterly direction, and to other species, that, as summer residents, have either disappeared, or are fast disappearing from this vicinity.

To emphasize this I have made a comparison of the present standing of these species, with that of fifteen years ago, and have quoted from Mr. E. D. Wintle's list of Montreal birds, published in 1896—such quotations being marked with asterisks.

I have also made notes on other species of breeding birds, listed by Mr. Wintle, as doubtful or rare summer residents.

*NYCTICORAX NÆVIUS*, Black-crowned Night Heron.

"Summer resident; common. Breeds on islands in Lachine Rapids."\*

These birds have forsaken their former nesting grounds but still breed in large numbers in the flooded ash swamps bordering on the Lake of Two Mountains. In two heronries visited on May 24th, 1908 and 1909, there were several hundred pairs nesting.

*ACTITIS MACULARIA*, Spotted Sandpiper.

"Summer resident; abundant."\*

Having seen no mention of gregarious habits attributed to this Sandpiper, it might be of interest to note that a few years ago a large colony were nesting on Isle Ronde (a small island of a few acres, opposite the city). Visiting this island on May 26th, 1896, I located without difficulty thirteen occupied nests. Again, on May 31st, 1898, I examined upwards of twenty-five. On each occasion only a small portion of the island was examined and I estimated that there were well over one hundred pairs breeding.

*ACCIPITER VELOX*, Sharp-shinned Hawk.

"Transient visitant; common."\*