

touched, later on it became a little shy. It would utter a soft musical twitter, much like the "heady" song of its congener, the cedarbird.

The snowy owl (*Nyctea nyctea*) seems again to have given Ottawa a wide berth, whereas further south many are reported. I have seen one only, which had been shot about Nov. 15th near Farrellton.

Of the rare great grey owl (*Scotiaptex cinereum*) another inhabitant of the fur countries of the far north, I have seen and heard of four so far this winter, all of which found their way into the hands of Henry the taxidermist.

At the same place I found a specimen of the rare Richardson's owl (*Cryptoglaux tengmalimi richardsoni*) which had been shot here on Nov. 16th.

The beautiful evening grosbeak (*Coccothraustes vespertinus*) has not put in an appearance so far, much as his presence is desired. He is one of the most irregular birds in his movements. He may come at any time in winter, beginning or end, and stay for a day or a month at a place, and then not be seen there again for years, or perhaps come for several years in succession.

Neither has the comical Canada jay (*Perisoreus canadensis*), the clown amongst our northern birds, deigned us worthy of his visit this winter. Instead he prefers to steal meat from the shanty-kitchens in our northern words. Redpolls (*Acanthis linaria*) and pine siskins (*Pinus spinus*) may be seen in favorable localities all winter. They come and go without pretense to any regularity.

Who can solve the riddle of the coming and going of these birds?

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#### THIS YEAR'S AWARD OF THE LYELL MEDAL.

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The many friends of Dr. J. F. Whiteaves, palaeontologist and zoologist to the Geological Survey of Canada and one of its assistant directors, will be pleased to learn that he has been awarded the "Lyell Medal" by the Geological Society of London. The presentation of this medal is made at a most appropriate time, as Dr. Whiteaves has just completed the fiftieth year of his scientific work.