

is common. It both breeds and winters, usually keeping in the thick forests, seldom coming out in the clear country. I have seen its young in the spring, and the adult at all seasons of the year. A specimen shot at Digby, Feb. 1876, when feeding upon a black duck, was nearly white, washed by pale ferruginous, and barred and spotted light brown. The pure white chin remained unchanged, as it has done in every individual I have examined, how much otherwise the plumage may have been altered. Though not resembling Richardson's figure, I thought it may have been the Aretle variety. Our camp fires attracted them when camping on the shores of a forest lake in Digby county, Sept., 1871. By answering their wild teline cries, we kept them about us the long night, unseen, yet continually shifting from one spruce fir to another, amongst which our camp was pitched. Their prey is nocturnal, and thus less likely to be known. Grouse, hare, and even ducks may be readily captured by this powerful bird, which uses its beak as well as its claws in destroying life. A poor pet crow, the favorite of the village at Annapolis, visiting every house for its bone, and sleeping now in an old porch, now in an unfinished church, or under the eave of inhabited houses, alarmed the inmates, beneath whose eaves it had sought a roosting place, by its shrill cries one calm midnight. On going to its rescue a large nocturnal bird of prey floated away. At sunrise it was found dead on the grass beneath, no doubt a victim of this powerful nocturnal prowler. Of the short eared owl (*B. palustris*) and the long eared owl (*O. vulgaris*), they may be said, though not rare, still not very common. I have Mr. Downs' authority that the short eared nests in Nova Scotia, near Halifax. Probably both do, yet the number of both that appear during winter proves migration to be the chief cause of their presence with us. Of the barred owl (*N. nebulosum*), my notes give May, as the month I identified him in the breeding season. I have no doubt he winters with us, but my notes have no monthly dates. The hooting of this owl comes down on the night wind to you like the loud broken laughter of many men. A stranger would easily suppose he was near a large logging party. The majestic snow owl (*N. nivea*) I do not think nests with us. He is usually a winter visitor, though I saw him once, August, 1854, on Sable Island, with all his feathery alpine plumage, sitting upon the hot sand, the snowy, thick muffled claws

reposing on sand that bent your touch. A few years after the island had been stocked by domestic rabbits, this bird made his appearance, in 1827, and ever after paid it an annual visit. I saw him patiently watching the burrow mouth, instantaneously to seize its emerging owner. He is usually our winter visitor, and like other species sometimes comes in flocks. In the winter of 1876 Mr. Egan, at Halifax, had fourteen specimens at one time. The settlers told me they sat like pigeons upon their barns, coming out of the forest at dusk. There had been no storms or local reasons for this migration which extended into New England. The hawk owl (*S. ulula*), is also a winter visitor. He shows himself sometimes in flocks. Some years ago there were more than a dozen brought into Halifax, then not seen for years, and of late returning singly. Of Tengmalm's owl (*N. Tengmalmi*) I have seen but few specimens, and believe it very rare. Four are the utmost I have seen in Nova Scotia. The Saw-whet (*N. acadica*) is common and resident, keeping the deepest forests as his abode, frightening the Indian at his bivouac, who never will answer him or allow any one to do so in his camp, for fear of impending misfortune. Yet he, too, appears sometimes in flocks in the open. During the spring of 1879, Mr. Egan had numerous specimens offered him. The little red owl (*S. asio*), so common in New England and also in Newfoundland (Reek's Zoologist, 1869,) I have never seen here, in which Mr. Downs joins me. In its migrations it passes perhaps north of us. In ending my remark on our owls, I may say that about four have been identified as nesting with us, the others are winter visitants, and that with the exception of the Great grey owl, there are excellent specimens of each species in the Halifax museum.

In passing to the diurnal birds of prey, the FALCONIDÆ, we find more power and strength developed in each individual, though denuded of their soft coating; the hind toe (in the owls very small comparatively) greatly increased, a greater propensity to use the claw than bill, and a greater ardour of temperament, and power of wing action. This family naturally separates itself into the harriers, the falcons, the hawks, the buzzards, and the eagles. I mean as regards Nova Scotia, since the kites and vultures never come to us. Of the harriers, resembling the owls in a facial circle, we have one species (*C. cyaneus*), a geographical variety of the old world harriers.

(To be Continued.)