

duce instant death. I prepared a sharp-pointed instrument, and with one stroke the point entered the brain to the depth of three eighths of an inch; even after this the owl lived over one hour. I would be pleased if some of your readers would suggest a more speedy way to kill large birds?

Yours, &c.,  
R. B. SCRIVEN.

Gravenhurst, Ont.

NOTE.—The editor of this journal has had long experience with large living wild birds. The best mode and the quickest to destroy bird life, is pressure across the sternum. In this way the skin is not destroyed, and it dies without great pain or struggle.

#### OUR FOREST TREES.

**CHESTNUT; *Castanea vesca*.**—A large and abundant tree, valuable for its nuts and its timber. The nuts, though much smaller than those of Europe, are sweeter and more nutritious. Close observers say that the chestnut moth lays one egg in each bur, and thus they account for the fact that in a quantity of chestnuts, about one-third are found to be wormy. The timber is more used than formerly. Its durability has long recommended it for fence posts and rails, and of late years it is largely used in cheap furniture, and the interior wood work of houses. It to be varnished or oiled, the pores should be carefully filled.

**AMERICAN HORNBEAM; *Carpinus Americana*.**—A small tree, 20 to 30 feet in height, admired for its soft green foliage, which in autumn changes to bright scarlet and orange. The wood is white and solid and is used for mallets and levers.

**LEVER WOOD; *Ostrya Virginica*.**—This closely resembles the last in size and foliage. The uses of the wood are similar, but it is even harder and tougher, and it is often called "iron wood."

**BUTTERNUT; *Juglans cinerea*.**—A broad-topped tree, seldom more than 40 to 50 feet in height. The nut when half-grown makes excellent pickles, and when ripe, if carefully dried, contains a sweet kernel. The wood is light and durable, of a pale reddish color, and is used for making drawer fronts, coffins, gunstocks, and panels of carriages.

**BLACK WALNUT; *Juglans nigra*.**—This tree is less abundant in New England than the but-

ternut which it much resembles, in size, form, and foliage. The leaves are smother, and the fruit spherical, while the butternut is long and oval. In the States bordering the Ohio River, the Black Walnut reaches its greatest size and yields its valuable timber in its highest perfection. This when first cut is of a purplish color, but soon changes to a rich dark brown, becoming in some cases nearly black with age. It is beautifully shaded and admits a fine polish; and no other American wood is so largely in demand for furniture and ornamental wood work of every description. The rapid consumption of walnut lumber is rendering it every year scarcer and more valuable in the market. It has also been largely exported to Germany and other foreign countries.

**ENGLISH WALNUT; *Juglans regia*.**—This tree has been successfully introduced into New England, but is less hardy than our native species. Its well known nut is in constant demand.

**BLACK BIRCH; *Betula lenta*.**—This is the most beautiful and valuable of the birches. In early spring its long bright coloured tassels give it a pleasing appearance, and it is among the first to put forth its leaves. In the forest it often reaches a height of 70 feet. When standing alone its long hanging spray earns for it the name of the weeping birch. The inner bark of young shoots has an agreeable spicy taste and odor. The wood is easily worked, yet firm; is of a delicate rose colour and presents a handsome grain. It is in demand for cabinet furniture, and is sometimes called "American Mahogany."

**YELLOW BIRCH; *B. lutea*.**—This is a rather larger tree than the preceding, and when seen in perfection is almost as beautiful. The scaly bark in long rolls adhering, by the middle or one end, and adorned with mosses and lichens, gives to the trunk a unique appearance. Its wood, though of less value than that of the black birch, is often used for making chairs and bedsteads. Its resinous bark is the tinder of northern voyageurs, and a flame will shoot to the top of a lofty tree in a few seconds, lighting a wide circuit.

**RED BIRCH; *B. nigra*.**—This graceful tree is usually found bending over a stream, and in some sections of New England is known as the "river birch." Its usual height is 50 feet. The wood is compact and white, and is now but little used. The earlier settlers made spoons, bowls and trays of it, hence it was called by them "spoon wood."

(To be continued.)