

THE CANADIAN SPORTSMAN AND NATURALIST

No. 6.

MONTREAL, JUNE, 1882.

VOL. II.

WILLIAM COUPER, Editor.

TO HEALTH AND PLEASURE SEEKERS.

This journal is the best medium to advertise Sea Bathing localities and healthy inland Summer Resorts, especially where good shooting and fishing can be obtained. Our subscribers are generally gentlemen of means, and just the parties who visit new places annually to enjoy themselves.

THE CANADA LYNX.

(*Lynx Canadensis*.)

A subscriber writes to say "that Mr. Garnier is wrong in stating that the above-named quadruped have never been seen in the Peninsula (of Ontario I suppose) south of the Ottawa River!" He informs us "that they are still to be found in the County of Simcoe, and that he has found them in his own woods on Lake Simcoe. A remarkable fine specimen measuring very nearly forty-three inches from nose to tail was sent to him by one of his sons, shot in the County of Frontenac, near Skunk Lake, about three months ago. The two species, the Red Lynx (*Lynx rufus*) and the *Lynx Canadensis*, though resembling each other in many respects, yet have such distinctive characteristics, that they cannot well be mistaken for each other."

NOTE.—The Canada Lynx was not uncommon when we resided in Toronto about thirty years ago, and although its fur is used for robes, &c., and many are annually destroyed, it is not possible that it is annihilated in Ontario. The two species are arboreal, and as the woodlands are being cut down and farm lands extending, these animals, like many others, are pressed back to the mountain solitudes, where they can procure food and bring forth their young. This accounts for *L. Canadensis* being more abundant north of the City of Quebec, where large tracts of woodland are almost as primitive to-day as they were one hundred years ago. Our fur-bearing animals are doubtless decreasing, especially in the more cultivated and open portions of Canada. At one time, the Hudson Bay Co., although traders in furs only, protected these animals by a proper system, ordering the Indians to procure certain species during the season,

therefore allowing other species to multiply, thus they kept up the stock in a natural way. But of late years, hunters and fur traders visit the grounds which formerly the Company held within themselves. Now, fur-bearing animals are trapped by residents on the Labrador coast at all seasons. The Indian seeing his white brother doing this, as a matter of course, follows his example, but the result will be ultimately disastrous to the hunter and quadrupeds. The government should certainly stop people from killing fur-bearing animals out of season, and we are pleased to notice that the new Game Laws provides that "the Lieutenant Governor in Council may, in his discretion, prohibit the hunting or killing of any game or fur-bearing animals, for a period not exceeding five years." This is sensible, but at the same time, we have no objection to the muskrat being destroyed at all seasons when they commit havoc on a farmer's land by burrowing under creeks and rivers on his property, but martin, otter, mink and beaver should not be destroyed out of season.

The editor of this journal is not responsible for matter sent by correspondents. When manuscript is placed in our hands for publication, any statements therein, of which we have a doubt, will be invariably corrected before the compositor receives it. Were it not for our long absence from Ontario, Mr. Garnier's remarks regarding the Canada Lynx would have been noted at the time they were published.—C.

ORNITHOLOGICAL QUERIES.

The Canada Jay (*Perisoreus Canadensis*): A great deal has been written regarding the habits of this bird, but very little of its history is given during its nesting season. Its nest was found in Nova Scotia, Mr. Dickinson of Springfield, Mass., says he has eggs from the latter Province. It must nest about the same time as the Crossbills, as on my visit to Labrador, specially to obtain the eggs of this bird, I noticed the young in May, at a place called Watchsheshio. They were following their parents, flying from tree to tree, but their heads were covered with white downy feathers, therefore, I must have found them in the vicinity of their nest. Can any of our