

it near Lucknow, and I had the pleasure of receiving it from him. They (the old ones) are very shy during the breeding season, after constructing a bed in a hollow log or some secluded place. On one occasion, in July, many years ago, I was in Turnberry Swamp looking for pigeons. I had a dog wandering about with me, and he gave tongue at some distance; it was near sunset and I hurried towards the place, thinking he had attacked a Porcupine. On arriving where the dog was, I saw a large Lynx and two young ones (kittens) which on my approach, entered a hole at the base of an elm tree, before I could cover them with my rifle. The old one made frantic charges at the dog which I called away from the contest, and after I closed the hole with fallen limbs, to keep the party secure, I went home. Early next morning in company with a neighbour, the place was visited, but to our astonishment a hole was opened in another place at the base of the tree, and the Lynx and kittens gone. I give a short account of the skulls of *L. rufus* sent to you for inspection, all of which were killed within a few miles of this place.—

No. 1—Adult male, shot by me in January, 1879. Length 49½ inches. Weight 68½ lbs. This was one of the largest I met with, and am sorry to have lost the skin.

No. 2—A female. I presume three years old. Weight 53 lbs; Length 48 inches. Shot February 23, 1882, by Mr. Alfred Huddingby of Culross Township, Ont. In this instance also I lost a very fine specimen.

No. 3—Young female trapped and shot in the head by Mr. Sutherland Taylor, 1878, in Wawanosh Township, O. Length 38 inches; Weight 30 lbs.

No. 4—A young male, shot by Jos. Henderson of Lucknow, O., who gave me the animal fresh. Length 38 inches; Weight 25 lbs.

No. 5—Young male, shot by myself, on December 1, 1881, in Ashfield Township. Weight 27 lbs. Length 37½ inches.

In the last three the symphysis and the sutures are not solidified. They are therefore the skulls of young *L. rufus*.

I sincerely hope this may draw forth the opinions of others on the Lynx forms occurring in Canada, I trust moreover that a valuable periodical like "The Canadian Sportsman and Naturalist" will soon have means to illustrate subjects of this description.

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NOTE.—We have received the specimens sent for examination. The adult skin and the stuffed kitten are specifically *L. rufus*. The whole of the skulls belong to the latter species. Our correspondent quotes Jordan's Manual of Vertebrates to distinguish between *L. Canadensis* and *L. rufus* which comparatively we consider very vague. Independent of the permanent marks and general colour of *L. rufus*, when the Dr. has an opportunity of comparing *L. Canadensis*, he will discover that the latter is a true and well defined species. It is futile to deny the occurrence of the two species in Ontario. Without giving the osteology of the animals, we may state positively that they are not alike. First in an exterior view, we notice that the marks behind the ears of the kitten of *L. rufus*, are permanent in the adult. The Dr. has overlooked these evident specific marks which do not occur in *L. Canadensis*. A frigid climate will doubtless alter the exterior markings or colour of animals unused to a low temperature. We know that a coolie dog when taken from Scotland to an Arctic region, there to remain for three years, causes the animal to erect its ears and change colour but the ossens parts are still those of a coolie. Exposure to a frigid pressure is even remarkable in the human form, when subjected to the same influence. We have no space to go further at present, but in the meantime the subject can be looked into by our readers who may give additional light on it.—C.

RARE BIRDS IN ONTARIO.

SIR,—Having read with much pleasure, in your valuable journal, accounts of other collector's experiences in the Ornithology of our country, the thought struck me that some of my notes might be acceptable to you. During this Spring, from 8th April until 23rd June, I, in company with my assistant, were collecting at Mitchell's Bay, and adjacent marshes, where we preserved over one thousand four hundred specimens of birds, fish, reptiles and birds eggs; but the bird that