

wooden bridge. Standing on the bridge, I watched their gambols for nearly quarter of an hour, admiring the beauty and rapidity of their motions, as they glided through the air, sometimes sweeping down to within a few inches of the ground, then raising themselves rapidly in the air again, and sailing round in sweeping circles, or crossing and recrossing each other in their flight, with such rapidity that the eye could scarcely follow them, but at no time rising to any height in the air, from which I inferred that they had found some favourite insect food just at that spot, for although I left them flying in undiminished numbers around the immediate neighbourhood of the bridge, as I proceeded on my way home, I did not see a single bird during the remainder of my walk. Usually, however, the Night Hawk is seen abroad an hour or two before sunset, generally high in the air, uttering every now and then, as it flies, its harsh shrill note, occasionally like swallows in certain states of the atmosphere, descending from its airy height, and skimming over the fields or roadways within a few feet of the ground, in pursuit of its insect prey. The singular hollow whirling sound which the Night Hawk sometimes makes when on the wing, has been attributed to various causes, but there appears to be little doubt that it is produced by the bird descending suddenly through the air with wings and tail half closed, and then wheeling up again as rapidly with outstretched wings and expanded tail; the concussion of the air made by the altered position of the wings as the bird wheels suddenly up from its downward plunge, is doubtless the cause of this singular noise.

No nest is ever constructed by the Night Hawk. On the bare ground, in some elevated spot in a ploughed field, or in an open place on the skirts of the wood, the female lays two almost oval eggs of a muddy bluish white, freckled all over with brown spots. The young are for sometime covered with a soft down of a dusky brownish colour. If the female is disturbed while sitting, she will flutter off from her nest, pretending lameness, until she succeeds in drawing the intruder away from the neighbourhood, when she mounts into the air and disappears.

The plumage of the Night Hawk, like that of the Whip-poor-will, is very beautifully marked. The head and upper part of the body generally brownish black, with wavy lines and spots of pale cream colour and reddish brown. Secondary quills tipped with brownish white, and a conspicuous white bar extending across the inner web of the first, and the whole breadth of the second, third, fourth and fifth primaries. Tail feathers barred with brownish grey, the four outer on each side plain brownish black towards the end, with a white spot. Sides of the head and neck marked and mottled like the back; a broad white band in the form of the letter V reversed on the throat and sides of the neck. The rest of the under parts greyish white, marked with undulating bars of dark brown.

G. W. A.

MR. THOS. WHITE.

We are glad to find that our British Emigration Commissioner, Mr. White, is getting access to the public by means of lecturing, and is thus awakening considerable interest in the minds of Old Country people with regard to Canadian affairs. The effect of these lectures is not restricted to the audiences before whom they are delivered, for the newspapers are publishing very full reports of them, and these cannot fail to be widely read, and to be of great service in disseminating correct information. His lectures in Glasgow and Liverpool, those important centres of population and commerce, have appeared in British newspapers with but very little abbreviation, and we are glad to see that some of our Canadian papers are reproducing them here. We believe that all who have had the opportunity of seeing these reports will agree with us in saying, that Mr. White has given a very fair and faithful account of matters and things in this country, and that so far from over-colouring the picture, he might, without any impropriety, have made the tinting brighter than he has done. It is better, however, to say too little than too much, and we are certain, that no one who may be led to come hither in consequence of Mr. White's representations, will ever have occasion to reproach that gentleman for having exaggerated the inducements to emigrate to Canada.

We learn with much pleasure that both Mr. White and Mr. Dixon, the Dominion Emigration Agent, who resides in London, report an increasing eagerness for information in regard to this country on the part of people at home, so much so that a necessity has arisen for the issue of another and larger edition of the pamphlet and maps recently published in the interest of the Province of Ontario by our Local Government.

SIR JOHN YOUNG, GOVERNOR GENERAL OF CANADA.

His Excellency, the Right Hon. Sir John Young, Bart., K.C.B., G.C.M.G., Governor-General of the Dominion of Canada, was born August 31st, 1807, and is therefore now in his sixty-second year. He was educated at Eton, and Corpus Christi College, Oxford. After