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REMARKS ON SOME MARSH DWELLERS.

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(Read before the McIlwraith Ornithological Club.)

Not having previously had access to a locality suitable for the study of waterfowl, on June 6th, 1903, I decided to visit the marshes in Lake St. Francis, near Summerstown, Ont., about forty miles from Montreal.

During our drive from the station to the lake shore my friend pointed out a former nesting site of the sparrow hawk, a scarce summer resident in Montreal. Arrived at the lake, we had a short row to Stanley Island, where we found excellent accommodation at the Algonquin Hotel.

The waning light now warned us that we had barely time for a short survey of the island, and during our walk we noticed where a kingfisher had burrowed in the crumbling bank, while later, when darkness had fallen, we flushed a bobolink from its nest and eggs. Owing to continued drought, the cover afforded ground birds was very scant and this particular bird, ignoring concealment, had built her nest flush with the ground amongst last year's stubble, trusting to protective coloration, which was aided by the eggs being conveniently of a grayish appearance in place of the usual rich brown.

Before five o'clock next morning we were well on our way toward the nearest shallows, the chucking of gallinules our guide through the lifting mists. Arrived at the first marsh, distant one-half mile from the mainland, we took our first plunge, dispelling any lingering drowsiness and startling a pair of gallinules into hurried flight. A shallow platform of dead rushes fastened to reed stalks and elevated several inches from water level, was