

gone. At that instant, a Cooper's Hawk, that had evidently just made a swoop at the flock and missed it, alighted on a small tree that hung over the water, and remained perfectly motionless. Now, when man attempts to secure any of these young ducks, the parent almost always flies off, while the young dive and swim under water to the banks of the stream or pond where they may be. When a bird of prey makes his appearance, the whole family dives beneath the surface, and swims off; the mother in one direction, the young in another. I have noticed the same fact several times, and conclude that the parent, who frequently makes her appearance above the surface, does so because she is capable of enduring submersion better than her young, and shows herself often, a little farther from her offspring every time, until she had led their pursuer away from them; giving them, in the mean time, a chance to swim off, and conceal themselves. The hawk, in this instance, was not to be deceived. He followed the parent but once, and then immediately returned to his perch. The banks of the river at this place were steep, there was no vegetation growing in the water, and the chances for obtaining a meal from one of the young ducks were decidedly in the hawk's favor.

The young ducks are very expert divers. They have the faculty of *sinking* beneath the surface at any alarm, and will remain there perhaps half a minute. Unfortunately for them, they cannot *swim* beneath the surface a great distance, and generally come up quite near the place where they went down. The hawk sat attentively inspecting the river in different places; and, as one of the young birds made its appearance, he marked it for his victim. The moment it rose to the surface, he made a swoop for it, when, of course, it dove. This was repeated several times, the young duck remaining beneath the water a shorter length of time at each dive. Soon it was manifest that the hawk would obtain his quarry, when, as he flew for