THE OTTAWA NATURALIST.

[September

My three weeks were only sufficient to enable me to make a good guess at the author. The latter is the most prominent singer in the towns, living all over, and probably nesting in back yards as our Robin does. The Robin was there too, and was much hunted by the poorer people *for food*. These birds fed mainly on the Palmetto berries in the towns, and were too wild in the woods to be watched. As our visit ended in early March we did not hear a really fine song from the Mocking-bird, but still we found him a fairly constant singer. The Cardinal, though conspicuous, had scarcely begun to tune up, but the Carolina Wren, in the woods, gave us beautiful thrush-like songs from little bunches of scrub Palmetto, where he was difficult to see.

One of the interesting water birds, seen on the Ocklawba River only, was the Limpkin, a lr ge and beautiful Rail-like bird of a rich seal brown colour, with vivid white streaks, which often alights in trees, although its feeding place is the marshy edges of the rivers. The Anhinga, or Snake-bird, was seen once or twice, but never at short range except for a mere glimpse, while the Herons, which were simply innumerable twenty-five years ago, are now nearly extinct, and the few that are left are wild inhabitants of the open country where a near approach is impossible.

Another bird whose acquaintance we made at the water only, though not a water bird, was the Fish Crow, coloured exactly as our crow, and of the same size, but one could guess them by their flight, and if the bird spoke there was no longer any doubt, as the voice was a harsh weak croak, quite trifling when compared with our vigorous northerners. We saw these birds only when flying to and from the salt water, and had no opportunity of making any closer acquaintance.

A summary of all the birds seen during the trip, lasting from February 13 till March 3, shows 64 old acquaintances, 6 that are very rare in the north, and 23 that were absolutely new, and while the proportion of well known birds was large, yet the new ones winter residents of Florida—were in many instances so common and so interesting that it seemed as though there were new ones on hand at every turn. The only nests seen were a few of the Eagle and Osprey, along the water courses, and they were inac-