

to ascertain from persons resident near the lakes, to inform them of the first appearance of the ducks, so that they can start on their shooting trips at the right time. Very few Red-heads, Blue-bills, and Plover were exposed for sale in our markets this Fall, but plenty of Black Ducks, Teal, Woodcock and Snipe. I am under the impression that the Red-heads and Blue-bills departed the latter end of October. If many were observed in November, I should be interested to hear of it through the columns of the CANADIAN SPORTSMAN AND NATURALIST.

TEAL.

Montreal, 4th December, 1881.

To the Editor of the CANADIAN SPORTSMAN AND NATURALIST:

DEAR SIR,—I take "in good part" your strictures on my notes to Professor Macoun's ornithological record, and hope you will receive what I have to say in reply in a similar candid spirit. In the first place I would point out that there is a general disposition on the part of our best naturalists to simplify the nomenclature, by abolishing many of the genera which have been recently established on what are considered very insufficient grounds, and at the same time to retain or restore those names which are entitled to priority, with the exception of such as are manifestly inappropriate, as having been bestowed either in the absence of sufficient knowledge, or in misconception. The name "Lanius" is certainly entitled to priority in point of time, having been bestowed on the Shrikes by Linnaeus, while "Colluris" originated (not with Dr. Baird,) but with Vigors. There can be no comparison between these two names as to their appropriateness, the former being exactly descriptive of the habits of the bird; the only objection that can be made to it being that it does not come from the Greek, but from the Latin language. The name *Colluris* appears to me to be far-fetched and inappropriate, inasmuch as the only derivation I can find for it is *Κολλυριον* (*kollurion*), diminutive of *Κολλυρα* (*kollura*), equivalent of *Κολλυξ* (*kollix*), a long, narrow loaf of bread, this is latinized into *Collarium*, eye-salve, so called because put up in small cakes. Now the bird does not eat bread, either in long or short loaves; and certainly does not use eye-salve either in large or small cakes, and I therefore think that this may be taken as an example of the reckless manner in which ridiculous names have been inflicted upon unoffending species by

fanciful authors. You have evidently formed a wrong conception of the scope and character of Professor Jordan's "Manual of the Vertebrates." It is in fact a very valuable work, carefully condensed and compiled from the best American authors, and I would as strongly recommend it as a book of reference to the student of vertebrate life, as I would Nuttall's or Walker's Dictionary to the student of the English language, for it has the merit of presenting the distinctive characters of each species so clearly, and so free from the unimportant details with which too many writers overload their descriptions, that both Professor Macoun and myself have been able through its means to identify several birds and other animals which we had failed to recognize from other more laboured and pretentious works. I may say further that it is only in the edition of 1881 that Dr. Jordan has restored the name "Lanius," having adopted "Colluris" in his former editions.

Your obedient servant,

JAMES T. BELL.

Albert College,)
Belleville, Dec. 5th, 1881. }

P. S.—I find that I made a mistake in the name of the worthy sportsman whose success among the Bass I recorded in my former letter; his name is Ormond, not Orwin, as I accidentally misspelled it. J. T. B.

Some of our hunters have visited the northern part of this district with pretty good success. Messrs. S. B. Burdett, H. Corby, and Jas. Clarke, spent a week at Loon Lake, and killed five deer in three days hunting. In Dungannon and Faraday, Messrs. R. Tait and J. Roy, one day, drove three deer into Bay Lake, all of which they killed. In the afternoon Mr. Roy went out again and killed another by still-hunting. Game of all kinds is unusually plentiful in the northern townships of Hastings this year. A few days ago Mr. R. Day shot thirteen partridges (Ruffed Grouse) within three miles of the city of Belleville.

J. T. B.

A GENERAL DELUGE.

BY G. W. BROWNS, M. D.

(Our Home, and Science Gossip.)

China claims a written history of 300,000 years. She gives the names of dynasties who have ruled over them for more than 50,000 years. May there not be more truth in their histories than we have given them credit? They have had a written and printed language from time immemorial. It is very probable,