

the *valisneria*, when they can get it. They are also very fond of the larvæ of the dragon-fly, to be found in great abundance at the bottom of streams near shore. The bluebills, like the canvas-backs, are only superior to the better classes of the non-divers when they can obtain the wild celery. They are also fond of wild rice, amongst the stalks of which they may be seen constantly diving late in the fall. The "ca-ca-wee" (*Harelda glacialis*) or "old wife," is a diver which comes from the north in the spring, passing down the Ottawa when the water is at its greatest height, resting here and there for a day, and following the flood down to the Gulf, or perhaps to the open sea. This bird gets its strange name from the notes of its voice. Its cackling may be heard quite a distance off. I have seen them frequently, but have never had an opportunity of examining a specimen. There are other ducks which occasionally visit the Ottawa river, the habits of which I have not yet had an opportunity to observe.

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#### REPORT OF THE GEOLOGICAL AND MINERALOGICAL BRANCH FOR THE SEASON OF 1882.

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*To the Council of the Ottawa Field Naturalists' Club :*

The leaders of the Geological Branch of the Club beg to report that although no regular sub-excursions of the Club in this branch were held, still small working parties made constant investigations into the numerous palaeozoic exposures in the neighbouring districts. Notes on the most interesting sections and measures were taken, which, when the long needed accurate topographical map of the district is prepared, may prove of no little value in determining the relative ages and exact distribution of the various formations met. The following brief notes of observations made are now submitted as likely to prove of more immediate interest :

THE CHAZY FORMATION.—I. Quite an extensive patch of this formation was examined at the Club's second excursion to the Des Chênes Rapids, three miles below Aylmer, P.Q. These measures consist of