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## NOTES ON THE BIRDS OF MANITOBA.

[From the *Zoologist*. Revised for the MONTHLY.]

DURING the last two years I have several times had occasion to visit that newly-opened but much-talked-of region known as Manitoba; and as on each visit I devoted as much time as I was able to spare from other branches of Natural History to the study of the Ornithology of that country,—a subject to which very little attention has hitherto been directed,—I now propose to offer a few remarks upon it. It must, however, be clearly understood that my observations are put forward strictly as *notes*. Many, even of the commonest birds, are not so much as referred to herein, simply because they did not happen to come specially under my notice. Most of the following notes were made near the town of Carberry, 105 miles west of Winnipeg, during the months of August, September, and October, 1883. I cannot too fully acknowledge the assistance given by my friend Mr. E. E. T. Seton, of Toronto, who for several years past has resided in Manitoba, and has done much towards investigating its avifauna. The nomenclature used is that employed in the new edition of Dr. Coues' 'Key to North American Birds.'

The popular idea of Manitoba as an icy and inhospitable country is not altogether wrong, so far as winter is concerned; but of the summer season it is wholly incorrect. While the latter lasts, bird-life in the greatest variety everywhere abounds. Meadow Larks, 'Quaillies,' Prairie Chickens, Bay-wings, and a hundred other kinds breed on the open prairies, Hawks, King-birds, and Nightjars swarm in the "bluffs" and woods; wild-fowl in the "sleughs."\*

\* On the Manitoban prairies a y isolated cluster of trees or a copse is known as a "bluff," a "sleugh" is the invariable name for a wet, marshy spot or a shallow pond.

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