

and the gopher, *Spermophilus tridecemlineatus* Mitchell, are very numerous and the prairie is everywhere riddled with their burrows. The pretty jumping mouse *Zapus Hudsonius*. Coles, is common wherever there is brush-wood. We have several species of Arvicola. *Arvicola riparius*, Ord. *A. riparius*, var. *borealis*, Rich. *Arvicola ranthognathus*, Leach, and some undetermined forms. They abound everywhere except on sandy plains, and supply an abundance of food for diurnal birds of prey. The flying squirrel, *Sciuropterus volucella*, Pallas, or rather *S. volucella*, var. *Hudsonius*, Gmelin, is common in wooded sections; they differ very little from Muskoke specimens, except that the fur is longer and denser. We also have the red squirrel, *Sciurus Hudsonius*, Pallas, where there is large timber; they do not differ very much from those you find down the glen in St. James' Cemetery. The northern hare, *Lepus Americanus*, Exl., var. *Americanus* is also common, preferring wooded sections to open prairie. The western porcupine, *Erethizon dorsatus*, Linn. var. *crispantulus*, is often found on open prairie a long distance from this. As a check on the increase of these plant eating animals we have a number of carnivorous species, the coyote, *Canis latrans*, Say, common everywhere; the timber wolf, *Canis lupus*, Linn., found in wooded sections; the red fox, *Vulpes vulgaris*, Flem., of which there are several varieties; the badger, *Taxidea Americanus*, Bodd., a fierce and greedy foe, also several species of the Mustelidae. The wild cat *Lynx rufus*, Raf., is occasionally seen but they are small and not at all formidable. The moose, *Alce Americanus*, Jard., the caribou, *Rangifer caribou*, Aud., the elk, *Cervus Canadensis*, Exl.; the reindeer, *Cervus Virginianus*, Gray.; the jumping deer, *Cervus macrotis*, Say., are all more or less common. The bear *Ursus Americanus*, Pallas, is represented by the usual varieties, black, brown and cinnamon. From Cypress Hills and along the rockies, to far up into the Peace River section is the haunt of the grizzly and whoever desires a skull must hunt for it there. This country seems particularly favorable to birds. I have seen nearly all the birds I knew in Ontario and many that are not found there, or only as occasional visitors. One reason for the abundance of species here is, I think, that in their spring migrations northward they keep in the valley of the Mississippi and being hemmed on the east by the great lakes and on

the west by the Rocky Mountains they have an uninterrupted course to Manitoba and the North-west. The security they have enjoyed for ages, during the breeding season is no doubt a great attraction, and accounts for the wonderful abundance of individuals, and the vast tracts of land—not fit for settlement—will afford cover for the most timid for years to come. The advantages here of studying bird life, of collecting specimens is quite to be envied; indeed so many birds build here that last summer, I am sure, I could have collected a waggon load of eggs of many species. As a general rule, the trees here are small, and nests easily got at. I have seen dozens of nests of the common buzzard *Buteo Swainsoni*, Bon., within easy reach from the ground in oak shrubs and poplar thickets. The nests of the brown thrush, *Harporhynchus rufus*, Cab., are especially numerous in all low thickets and just as up the Don or down the railway track from Toronto, the male bird sits on the topmost branch and pours out his cheering love song with vigor and variety. The veery, *Turdus fuscescens*, Bd., the wood thrush, *Turdus mustelinus*, Bd., and the robin *Turdus migratorius*, L., are all very common, the robins especially so; they sometimes remain until quite late in the fall. I got a specimen last October after snow had fallen. Warblers, kinglets and wrens abound and their nests are seen everywhere, when the leaves are off the trees. The ruby crowned kinglet, *Regulus calendula*, L., is quite common and in early spring when the azure bloom of the sand flower covers the prairie and its fragrance fills the air, when half opened leaves deck trees in the freshest green, the cheery musical song of this pretty little bird is heard as it darts among the willow blossoms. The chickadee, *Parus atricapillus*, L., remains here during the winter, and I have noticed with this as well as other birds that winter here, that the plumage is ample, soft and downy and that when it is cold they erect their feathers—apparently without effort—so as to appear much enlarged, presenting a greater depth of feather and of course a better protection from cold. The nuthatch, *Sitta Carolinensis*, Gmelin; the house wren, *Troglodytes aedon*, Vieil.; the longbilled marsh wren, *Cistothorus palustris*, Wilson, are common; the last around marshes and sloughs and in early morning, its peculiar note may be detected amid the chorus of red-winged black birds, the discordant laughing of mud hens, the trumpeting of the whooping crane, over