

this year were placed on record. Mr. Lyman laid before the meeting a "list of the Lepidoptera taken by Mr. Robert Bell in the Northwest Territory," which was noteworthy as showing the extensive distribution of some of our Canadian butterflies; and some time was very agreeably spent in examining his copy of "Abbott & Smith's Insects of Georgia," a standard work, and very finely illustrated.

Correspondence.

To the Editor of the SPORTSMAN AND NATURALIST

DEAR SIR,—I was astonished this week to see it stated in one of our city papers that one thousand brace of black duck had been sold a few days ago on the Montreal market. If this item of news is correct, it indicates a most lamentable state of things, calling loudly upon all sportsmen, and all others interested in the proper and reasonable preservation of game—and what good citizen is not?—to use their most strenuous and immediate efforts for the effectual prevention—as far as legislation can do so—of the killing of black duck, mallard, grey duck, and wood-duck in the Spring. With the exception of teal, all the above-mentioned species are protected in Ontario for the period between the first of January and the fifteenth of August. The law in the sister Province should be the same. Now that the Quebec Legislature is in session, I hope something will be done to prevent the suicidal policy of slaughtering and exposing for sale such splendid birds as black duck in the breeding season, too, when the females are laying their eggs. Admitting that amongst the two thousand black duck reported to have been sold in Montreal, there were one thousand females, and that each of such females, if unmolested by the worst enemy of game, the market poacher, would be able to bring up to maturity, at the very least, five of her brood, and many rear double this number, instead of two thousand, we have actually six thousand black duck imprudently and wantonly destroyed in the breeding season. This kind of work should be tolerated no longer in a civilized country. Even were there no law to control him, no civilized white man ought to be guilty of killing game in the breeding season. This kind of miserable work should be left to the Indian

who will soon have the plains to himself for anything he ever did to protect the game of the country. Trusting that during the present session of the Quebec Legislature, the legitimate sportsmen of your Province will be able to accomplish something towards assimilating the Game Act of Quebec with that of Ontario, more particularly as respects deer, wildfowl, snipe, woodcock and ruffed grouse.

I am, yours truly,

WILLIAM P. LETT.

Ottawa, April 29th, 1881.

THE ROBIN.—*Turdus migratorius*.

MR. EDITOR,—It gave me much pleasure to read the statements by my friend Mr. Saunders of London, in regard to our insectivorous birds. I am glad he has made these especial published observations, as they agree very closely with the same variety of scientific remarks made by Mr. Riley of Missouri. Nevertheless, much may be said in direct contradiction and with equal truth. As to Mr. Saunders' remark that *Turdus migratorius* is a very mischievous bird, I cannot agree, as I know to the contrary. Nevertheless, this is not the idea I wish to introduce. Mr. Editor, did you ever eat a robin? If not, you have a great pleasure ahead. I have eaten many, and am only sorry that I cannot procure them, all the time. They are really a delicate morsel at breakfast, and well worth the trial. I do not care to shoot them in Spring, but after the first of August, when Woodcock come in, I let them pass after killing sufficient for a dish. Try some and then give your opinion. Thousands are sold in New York, and other American cities, for a few cents each. If I remember rightly, about 10 cents a pair, is what I paid for them in New York. Before cooking, I should recommend them to be plucked and drawn, as the feathers and the "innards" are as well removed. Then get them nicely fried in butter for ten minutes. Serve on toast; and any one of reasonable desires must be content. I think it strange that this bird, as well as many species of snipe and plover, are not included in the game law, as they are well worthy of protection. I moot this point, and being an enthusiastic sportsman, I sincerely wish it would be attended to. You mention a delegation to go to Quebec about the Game Act. Would it not be as well to consider the other birds that could be easily included, and that sportsmen seldom allow to pass without bagging.

J. H. GARNIER.

Lucknow, Ont.