

THE GREAT NORTHERN SHRIKE, &c.

SIR,—With reference to an article that appears in your primary number, page 5, I beg to say that a male Shrike, (*Collyrio borealis*) was shot in a private garden in this town on the 14th of the current month. It had probably been attracted by the numerous English sparrows that now infest our streets, several of which it had killed before it was killed itself. For these sparrows, however, notwithstanding old country associations, I entertain no friendly feeling, inasmuch as they drive away our own native birds, Blue Birds, &c. And yet one cannot but admire their indomitable pluck. No severity of weather daunts them. During the exceptionally cold winter we are experiencing, with the thermometer indicating 18° below 0, and on some days with the mercury never reaching zero, they hop about with as much liveliness and self conceit as if they were "at home." Some other importations of *Fauna* and *Flora* into the Colonies from England are anything but desirable, e.g. the Rabbit in Australia, and the Scotch Thistle in America. A fine specimen of the Long-tailed duck, (*Heralda glacialis*), was shot on one of our back lakes last November.

VINCENT CLEMENTI.

Peterboro', Jan. 22, 1881.

The Long-tailed Duck occur abundantly in the Niagara River and Lake Ontario in winter and spring, in fact, it is the most common wild duck frequenting the Canadian Lakes. It is a pretty duck, but not at all palatable, for it is neither "fish, flesh nor good red-herring, although partaking largely of the nature of all these, being exclusively a fish-feeder."—ED.

SWIVEL OR PUNT GUNS.

SIR,—I am glad to observe that a correspondent over the signature "Wallace," in your first number directs attention to the "wholesale destruction of wild ducks on Lake St. Francis, by American pot-hunters by means of swivel guns." Such guns, or rather their use, for the purpose of killing wild fowl, is contrary to law in the Province of Ontario, and any person using them to kill game subjects himself to the penalty of twenty-five dollars for each offence. There surely must be sportsmen of the legitimate class living in the neighborhood of Lake St. Francis, who will take some interest in preventing such a flagrant breach of the

Game Act. We have no objections to see our brother sportsmen from across the border, whenever they chose to come to Canada, to enjoy themselves; but pot-hunters who kill for the market are always objectionable; and if they cannot, as they ought, be prevented from killing game, they should at least be compelled to do so according to law. I hope that no such illegal and unsportsmanlike modes of killing ducks, by swivel or punt guns of any kind will be allowed during the coming season.

Yours truly,

HAMMERLESS GREENER.

Ottawa, Jan. 27, 1881.

THE REDPATH MUSEUM.

The building to be hereafter known as the Peter Redpath Museum, in connection with McGill University, we are pleased to state, is progressing, and after the removal of the Geological Survey's Cabinets, the citizens of Montreal may have one good collection to refer to. The present room is too small to contain the yearly increasing material, which is either purchased or donated to the University. Dr. Dawson deserves the thanks of the public for his efforts in procuring the specimens and advancing this educational department.

MONTREAL BRANCH ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

The eightieth meeting of this Branch of the Entomological Society of Ontario, was held on the 8th inst., at the residence of the Secretary, Mr. G. H. Bowles. Mr. Canfield read a paper on the Coleoptera of the Island of Montreal. A number of insect dissections were also examined by the microscope.

A successful reunion of the Fish and Game Protection Club, of the Province of Quebec, was held at the St. Lawrence Hall on the evening of the 20th January. The menu, very properly, was largely composed of fish and game, and was served in a manner highly creditable to Mr. Hogan, the proprietor of the Hall.