

purpose, and the gun should be brought into requisition at once, as all our beneficial hawks migrate southward when cold weather sets in.

From the above species, all of which are undoubtedly injurious to the interests of the agriculturist by reason of the destruction they work in the poultry yard, and amongst our insectivorous wild birds, we turn to the remaining six species of hawks frequenting this Province, every one of which spends the greater part of its time and devotes its energies to the destruction of animals and insects which are known to be amongst the greatest pests the farmer has to contend with; these are the Marsh Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk and Sparrow Hawk.

Nearly every one knows the Marsh Hawk and has seen it gracefully skimming over the low meadows, occasionally hanging poised over one spot for a second or two, and then dropping down into the long grass; this drop generally means the death of a meadow mouse; sometimes, but more rarely, a frog; of these two creatures its food principally consists, and the number of meadow mice destroyed by each of these birds in a season must be something enormous. As many as eight have been found in the stomach of one of these hawks, and four or five quite frequently. The hawk's digestion is very rapid and their hunting and feeding is continued with but few intermissions from daylight until dark.

How many mice each bird would take on the average each day would be difficult to state exactly, but it is safe to assume that at least six would be required. Now multiply that by the vast army of hawks that resort to this Province and the total number of mice destroyed would be amazing; and then against this good work constantly going on there is no damage to be set off. Not one instance, in forty years observation of this bird's habits, has ever come to the writer's knowledge of their having attacked a single domestic fowl. It does sometimes make a meal off a dead duck or other bird it may find in the marshes, but it is doubtful if it ever kills for itself a bird of any kind, at any rate in this Province. Every farmer and every sportsman in the land should do his utmost for the protection of this hawk. Unfortunately they are constantly destroyed by persons who are ignorant of the good they do, and thousands are killed every autumn by mischievous people who must shoot at everything they see that has life in it. If people who wantonly shoot hawks would sometimes look at the stomach contents of the birds they kill they would soon be convinced of the wrong they were doing and would perhaps exercise sufficient commonsense to refrain from continuing the evil practice.

For the sake of brevity the Red-tailed Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, and Broad-winged Hawk may be considered together. These three common species are usually known as "Hen Hawks." Why, however, it would be difficult to say. They are all fairly large, slow, heavy flying birds, whose food consists principally of mice, squirrels, toads, frogs and snakes: very rarely do they ever take a bird of any kind. In fact it would be extremely difficult for them to do so, unless the bird was very young, or injured seriously. They will, when pressed by hunger, feed on carrion, but the staple article of diet with them is meadow mice and squirrels, varied, as before stated, by toads, frogs and snakes, besides grasshoppers and other insects.

I have especially omitted from this group, to which it really belongs, the Rough-legged Hawk. This is done purposely, because the great value of the species to the farmer should be particularly pointed out, the bird having been most unjustly persecuted. It is the largest of the Canadian hawks, and one that deserves the greatest consideration and protection from every man having an

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There i beautiful litt may be disti may be cons for it breeds choosing one small size of a pigeon, and young chicke which it cons more particul run about the pared to the reducing the give its slight deserves our p by Dr. Fisher States:

*Red-tailed* birds; 51, othe 9, crawfish, etc