

THE OTTAWA NATURALIST

VOL. XXV. OTTAWA, DECEMBER, 1911

No. 9

POPULAR AND PRACTICAL ORNITHOLOGY.

(I).—THE SNOWFLAKE.

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Snowflakes are birds of the Northern Hemisphere, breeding in the far north from Newfoundland, Greenland and Hudson's Bay, west to Alaska, and north to about lat. 63°. They winter throughout the Canadian Provinces south to the middle United States.

As we know it, the Snowflake is a whitish bird with partly black wings and tail, and its back washed with brown. In its summer dress it is entirely black and white. Its home, as I have stated, is in the far north where the feet of white men seldom tread. Here among the mosses, or hidden by some over-hanging rock or boulder, it builds its nest and rears its young. Here too, it sings its song of love—a song that we in the south seldom or never learn to know. This song has been described by some as sweet and pleasing, by others as mere twittering or a short whistle. Personally, I have never had an opportunity of meeting the bird in its breeding grounds, but to judge from a captive that had lost the power of flight, its song is both loud and pleasing, being somewhat of the jovial type that distinguishes the Fox Sparrow, in fact there is just a faint resemblance between the two. I can bring it to mind by the following syllables: *When will-you meet me, when will-you meet me.* This is uttered in a clear, loud voice, and when once heard cannot be confused, so far as I know, with any other song. The song too is often followed by a number of very shrill notes resembling the first few in the air song of an Oven bird, which would lead one to suspect that our bird is a competitor to be reckoned with for a place among the songsters of the air.

To most of us, however, the Snowflake is a winter bird, not a summer one. We are apt to herald its return from the north as a harbinger of winter and to associate its presence, in numbers, as an indication of rough weather, or perchance a blizzard. As