

Powerful, active, and gifted with great rapidity of flight, he is able to attack and conquer birds and animals greatly his superior in size and weight. The Common Hare (*Lepus Americanus*) often falls a victim to his voracity. Ducks, grouse, squirrels, and small birds, are destroyed by him; and I have known of his capturing and eating snakes and other reptiles, and even grasshoppers and crickets.

In hunting for prey, he usually flies just above the trees in the forest, and quite near the earth in the open country. His flight consists of a rapid succession of beatings of the wings, with intervals of equal periods of soarings. On discovering a bird or other object that he may wish to capture, he immediately gives chase. If the bird takes to the foliage of the trees, he immediately follows, turning at every turn, doubling and twisting through the trees with wonderful speed and success; and the chase is usually but a very short one indeed before he alights to feed on the quarry that he has secured.

He is very destructive to the flocks of young ducks that breed in the wilder districts of the country. I remember an instance of one of his raids on these birds that is not without interest.

While on a hunting and collecting excursion in the wilds of Maine, up the Magalloway River, — a beautiful stream that empties into the Androscoggin, near Lake Umbagog, — I wandered down the river banks, that are, for nearly the entire length of the stream, fringed with a thick growth of trees, away from the camp perhaps a mile. I was watching an old Black Duck (*Anas obscura*) and her brood of eight "flappers" disporting themselves in the water, and impatiently waiting for an opportunity for a shot; for, kind reader, I can assure you that a "broiled flapper," or wild duck about half grown, is a delicacy which, once enjoyed, is eagerly sought for by the frequenters of the wilderness. As I was creeping cautiously within shot of the birds, I suddenly heard a "quack" and splash, and the whole bevy was

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