

The American Bittern, *Botaurus mugitans*, is pretty common in the moister parts of the country,—near the Red River, for instance,—where I have often seen it disturbed by the passing train.

On August 30th a friend shot a young specimen of the Passenger Pigeon, *Ectopistes migratorius*, as it sat upon a tree near Carberry, but this was the only specimen seen during my visit.

No small portion of the Manitoban settlers' diet is formed of the flesh of the Sharp-tailed Grouse, *Pediacetes phasianellus*, always known as the "Prairie Chicken." To this bird, which is resident in Manitoba throughout the year, Mr. Seton has devoted much attention, and has elucidated many interesting points in its natural history. The nest is usually formed in long grass, generally near trees. In it the hen deposits fourteen to sixteen eggs, which, curiously enough, are rather smaller, as Mr. Seton points out, than those of the "Quail" (Bartram's Sandpiper), a bird just one eighth of its weight. The pairing is carried on in a very absurd fashion, parties of from one or two to twenty assembling in the early morning on some small hillock, and there dancing in a manner which is most ludicrous to behold. About the middle of August, or earlier, a row of stiff bristles or scales commences to grow on each side of the toes of both old and young. These are fully grown by October, and henceforth the birds are provided with snow-shoes for use during the winter. In spring these bristles entirely drop off. The birds spend the summer out on the open prairie, and while it lasts they seldom perch on trees; but in winter they all adjourn to the bluffs and woods, and spend the time there feeding on the buds of the trees, and at night diving down into the soft snow-drifts for warmth and shelter. Although they bury themselves to the depth of about a foot, many are killed by wolves and foxes, whilst others are fatally imprisoned should a slight thaw and subsequent frost harden the surface of the drift. In early spring, before the snow is gone, they emerge again upon the prairies where