

settlers educated to care for, and not destroy, this almost unique creature. The vast herds of buffalo had to go, the huge savage bovine defied the settler; but this swift and timid animal would keep out on the lonely waste far from danger, and would survive, were anything done to prevent merciless slaughter.

Antilocapra americana, Ord., is dissociated in every way from the typical antelopes of the old world and is neither a deer, a goat, a sheep, nor an ox. One American author says, "It is like an island in a vast sea, unrelated," though it would be more true to say that it is a connecting link related to many diverse branches of the Ruminantia. Its horns are hollow like the Bovidae, but deciduous like the Cervidae; yet it has the gall-bladder which no deer possesses. Scent glands which antelopes and deer exhibit, the prong-horn lacks, nor has it the tear sinus, nor the posterior hoof or "deer claw." Mr. Roosevelt characterizes it as "the extraordinary prong-buck, the only hollow-horned ruminant which sheds its horns annually"—and it is the sole species in the family Antilocapridae, a family all by itself. It combines features of the deer, antelope, goat and sheep, and can be compared only to the giraffe in this respect as occupying an isolated zoological position amongst the Ungulates.

In confinement it makes a great pet, but rarely lives long and, until June, 1903, none had been known to have been born in captivity. It is difficult, if not impossible, to domesticate completely and, since it was first scientifically described in 1855, and its peculiar features studied in a captive specimen in the Zoological Gardens, London, its numbers have continued to decrease so that it bids fair to soon become one of the rarest of our interesting larger native mammals.

WINTER BIRDS AT POINT PELEE.

BY W. E. SAUNDERS, LONDON, ONT.

The most southerly piece of land in Canada is the south end of Point Pelee, the latitude being about 41° 55', while London is almost exactly 43° and Ottawa about 45° 25'. It will readily be seen that there is sufficient variance between these places to make a radical difference in the winter bird population and it was, therefore, with much interest that Mr. J. S. Wallace and I undertook this year a couple of journeys to determine what the winter population of the Point actually was.

In the midst of a mild season it happened that the two closing days of January and the 1st of February produced the