

the head and neck. To prove the correctness of this, I obtained the specimens shown on the table, namely, an old and young snow goose, and an old and young blue-winged, shot in autumn on their return from breeding in the north.

In the Transactions of the Royal Society of Canada for 1882, Section IV. p. 49, there is a paper entitled "Notes on the Birds of Hudson's Bay,"<sup>1</sup> in which we are told that "there appears to be no doubt that the *blue-wavies* are only the young of the white." This is, of course, a mistake, but there are other inaccuracies in the same paper. For example, it states that minick, gadwall and grey duck, are one and the same bird. The pintail, (*Dafila acuta*) is the minick, a name given to it by the Indians in imitation of its call. The long-tailed duck is called in the paper *Dafila acuta*, but this is the scientific name of the pintail. The long-tail or (Ka-ca-ca-mee) of the Indians is *F. glacialis*.

The same paper says "that in the breeding season the male of the willow grouse has the head and neck of a reddish pheasant color, with the exception of the wings, which have a good deal of white," and that in the winter the white of the living bird "has a beautifully delicate rosy tint, which forms a considerable contrast with the surrounding snow." The summer plumage resembles the plumage of the Scottish cock grouse, but the wing feathers are always white, whilst the "rosy tint" is only to be seen on fine, mild and sunny days, never during cold dull weather.

After this brief digression let me return to my subject. The snow and blue-winged geese have a peculiarity I have never noticed in any other species. Previous to taking their southern flight from Hudson's Bay, they are for several days almost constantly on the open sea, never feeding, but busy washing themselves, taking short and rapid flights, and apparently having a good romp and great enjoyment. They are at this time very fat, and when shot, their stomachs and intestines are found perfectly empty, resembling, I am told, in this respect, those of salmon, prior to the hard work of ascending rivers to the

<sup>1</sup> By R. Bell, M.D., F.G.S., &c.