

their usual food supply, *i. e.*, small mammals and birds, have in those seasons been swept off the face of the earth or at least of their habitat—so, what is the reason for their wandering? No one seems to know. Ernest Thompson Seton in one of his books says that the little chickadees on certain days in the year get “crazy” spells, during which they act very queer, as though they had lost their “birdsense.” And the same has been observed of other birds, *e. g.*, the capercaillie and the blackcock in Germany, etc. Perhaps some of this queer, eccentric feeling on the part of these birds is responsible for some of their wanderings too!

Neither does the appearance of some of these birds at Ottawa this winter make the matter any clearer. A hawk owl (*Surnia ulula caparoch*) which breeds in Newfoundland, Labrador and the Hudson Bay country, was shot here on Oct. 9 last, and another seen at that time. Mr. Henry the taxidermist had two more. Usually they come later, if at all. At that time it was very mild here.

A very unusual migration of the American goshawk (*Accipiter atricapillus*) took place last October and beginning of November. While a few birds are seen here most winters, they are nearly always in the immature plumage, and rather rare at that, but at this time a regular migration of them took place, mostly composed of adult birds in the finest plumage. That is certainly remarkable. On Oct. 18 a fine large female was shot by a farmer near East Templeton in the act of carrying away a good-sized plymouth rock rooster. On Nov. 3, a boy shot a nice male near the rifle range, which had just put himself on the outside of a ruffed grouse (partridge.) Mr. E. G. White noticed a pair together near Pembroke, one also in the act of devouring a grouse. The taxidermist got several more from this vicinity, and all save one in the finest blue plumage. At Kingston this flight was still more noticeable. Mr. E. Beaupré of that city writes me, that he never saw so many goshawks together as this year, *i. e.*, fall of 1906. There were regular flights of them passing over the city. He saw them almost every day in October, but during the first week in November they were most abundant. He saw seven flying at one time. One he approached quite closely while tearing up a hairy woodpecker.