

THE DISAPPEARANCE OF THE PASSENGER PIGEON.

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The disappearance of the passenger pigeon in Ontario dates back at least forty years, though as late as 1870 some of the old roosts were still frequented, but the incredible flocks, of which so much has been said, had gone long before that date, and by 1880 the pigeon was practically exterminated, not only in Ontario, but over the greater part of its old range. There are, however, occasional records of birds taken, for some years later, an immature bird taken Sept. 9, 1887, in Chester county, Pennsylvania is said to be the last for that part of the state, (1) a bird also immature is in my collection taken in December 1888, at Montreal, Quebec; there are other Montreal records of the same date (2) but with the exception of one taken at Tadousac, July 20, 1889, (3) these are last Quebec records of birds actually taken. In Ontario two were taken at Toronto in 1890, on September 20, and October 11, both immature females, the latter is in my collection, as is an adult female taken by Mr. Walter Brett, at Riding Mountain, Man., May 12, 1892, one of a pair seen. I also have an adult male taken at Waukegon, Ill., Dec. 19, 1892. I was in New York in the latter part of Nov. 1892 and was then assured by Mr. Rowland, a well known taxidermist, that he had recently seen several barrels of pigeons that had been condemned as unfit for food, they had come to New York from the Indian Territory (4) and I believe had had their tails pulled out to permit of tighter packing. Mr. Wm. Brewster has recorded the sending of several hundred dozens of pigeons to the Boston market in December of the same year, and in January, 1893; these were also from Indian Territory; these are the last records we have of the passenger pigeon as any thing more than a casual migrant. The

(1) Proceedings of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club, II, 1898, 17.

(2) Wintle, Birds of Montreal, 1896, 51.

(3) In collection of Dr. J. Dwight, Jr.

(4) Minot, Birds of New England, 1895, 305.