

and powerful claw of its race in the highest beauty and perfection in my experience, is very rare. There was a good specimen in the Halifax Museum 1870, and Mr. Downs has noted it. This falcon is the *anatum* and great footed hawk of American writers. The pigeon hawk (*F. columbarius*) is perhaps the most common hawk of our Province. My notes are September and November, but still I believe he nests with us or is found during the time of incubation. He is a true falcon, in dash, temerity and force. He will strike a duck upon the wing and lacerate and tear up the whole back and neck region so as to produce death. He occurs here with a variation of colour. In the Provincial Museum are specimens with four obscure whitish bars upon tail. A specimen in Mr. J. M. Jones' collection agrees with this; the bars broader. Another, shot by Mr. Alfred Gilpin, has five white bars, the fifth obscured by tail coverts. Another specimen, shot by John Baxter, Nov. 4th, 1880, has five dark bars crossing the tail, the fifth hid by tail coverts. In this specimen the colour was more plumbeous on back and rump and tail, and more whitish below. I have not specimens enough to show any analogy between the plumbeous coloured back and darker tail bars, and whiter colour below. Cones asserts the female has white bars, Reeks (Zoologist, 1869.) describes it at Newfoundland, as having dark bars. The question is also complicated by Richardson's merlin or *Aesalon* of the old world, very allied to this species, being found in America, though denied by Cones. We find this very active and bold falcon on the flats of the sea shores, pouncing aerially upon the *Tringa*, *Torax* and other shore birds in their autumn migration. He lingers into November before he leaves us. There is no prettier sight than on a warm September day, in the Digby Basin, when the great Bay of Fundy tide has filled up to the very rushes the salt water estuaries and creeks; when the peeps and shore birds are like snowy drifts on the edge of the tide, waiting for the ebb; when the herons, coming full twenty miles from their herony by the forest lake side, are roosting in awkward groups on the spruce pines and birches overhanging the tideway, also waiting for the ebb; than an instant alarm of shrieks from the herons, followed by an instant barking of the crows, rising and falling about the tops of the pines, disturb you, as floating in your canoe you are watching how a feathery gull, or an early scoter, is breaking the majestic mirror all around you.

Malti Pieton, your Indian, says, "May bee herons don't like the hawk"; and then, as you turn your eyes landward, you see the hawk sailing in short circles around and then with a sweep leaping down upon the herons, recovering himself and passing with lazily flap of wing slowly their roosting trees. He, too, is waiting for the ebb. The sparrow hawk (*F. sparverius*) is not rare with us; my notes of him are in September, but Mr. J. M. Jones allows me to say, he has seen them during the summer in the valley of Annapolis, with all the habits of a resident bird, and probably nesting. Its beautiful colouring and bold upright form and audacity makes him everywhere a marked species. Of the next family of buzzards, I have identified three species. This family, more robust than the last and more powerful in form, have less audacity, sitting for hours listlessly on a dead tree, living on the smaller mammals and reptiles which, flying low, they snatch rather than pounce upon, are still audacious plunderers of the farm yard. Of the Red-shouldered hawk (*B. lineatus*) I have only Mr. Downs' notes. I have never seen it. The winter falcon (*A. lagopus*) is seen rarely here. A specimen in the Halifax Museum agrees with Richardson's figure and description, the colours scarcely so bright. I saw one specimen of a black hawk in Mr. Roue's collection, at Halifax, 1870. It was alive and therefore could not be examined closely, but it looked so very unlike, in size and figure, the *lagopus*, that I could scarcely call it a nigritism of that bird. But still I have nothing explicit enough to call it a true species, especially as the best writers unite in not considering it such. I can not but think there is a lost hawk in this family. The Red-tail hawk (*B. borealis*) is a common hawk with us. My notes give him the middle of April, Summer and November resident, but leaving us in winter. Our specimens, in the finest nuptial plumage, differ from Richardson's description both in the colour of tail and breast. They have very much more brown and ferruginous on breast, and the tails of the brightest chestnut red, the two outer tail feathers obscurely barred. Richardson says of his specimen, killed at Carleton house, May, 1827, "The tail is brownish orange, tipped with soiled white, with a subterminal band of blackish brown there are also traces of thirteen other brownish bars."

(To be continued.)