

is much more frequently flattened, the labrum is less rounded, and the whole shell is larger and higher in proportion to its width, and the aperture extends both above and below the penultimate whorl."

The shell described and figured by DeKay as *Pl. corpu-lentus*, Say, Zool. of New York, 1843, Pt. V., p. 64, and Pl. VIII, Fig. 185, is undoubtedly *Pl. binneyi*, Tryon. DeKay's error is to a large extent responsible for the confusion of the two species, which are in range as well as appearance quite distinct.

Of the Sphæria or "little-ball shells" several species new to the Ottawa list, and some probably undescribed, were collected in 1910. The most notable are *Sph. transversum*, Say, which is found in great numbers in the Rideau Canal along the right bank just above Hartwell's Locks and in the by-wash from the locks, and *Sph. crassum*, Sterki. But of these more anon.—L.

BLUE JAY IMITATING RED-SHOULDERED HAWK: ABSENCE OF CONES ON EVERGREEN TREES.

On December 10th whilst at Bury, Compton County, Que., I was surprised at hearing the cry of a Red-shouldered Hawk thrice repeated.—Keé-oo; Keé-oo; Keé-oo. Turning, I expected to see the bird circling above, but a thorough search failed to reveal it. One hundred yards away stood a small district school-house, and beyond, as far as the eye could reach, stretched an evergreen forest,—not exactly the locality for *lineatus*. In the opposite direction were hills, with patches of hardwood, a summer home of the Broad-winged Hawk. As the Red-shouldered Hawk is uncommon in this locality and considering the lateness of the season with the thermometer registering below zero, I was bound to have a look at the author of these cries. Thinking that the boys might have a wing-clipped bird, I started to search in the rear of the school, when suddenly a Blue Jay appeared to view in the lower branches of an elm. Fifteen minutes' wait failed to reveal any other bird life, and I became convinced that the Jay was the author of the cries, though it failed to repeat its efforts.

I was informed by residents of this district that Red Squirrels have been unusually numerous about their barns this fall. There is an excellent reason for this as there are no cones. I failed to find a single conifer bearing seed, and these seeds are bread and meat to the Squirrel, as the nut crop is insignificant and especially so this season. Are these conditions general?

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