

covered with the debris. As he raised himself, Bruin stood above him, seeming quite surprised at his appearance; but, as he again started off, she gave chase, and had nearly overtaken him, when he took off his hat and threw it at her; this stayed her progress for a few seconds, and the boy took advantage of the delay by starting to climb a small ironwood tree, but none to soon: the first dash Bruin made for him as he was going up, left some ugly scratches on his boot. However he succeeded in reaching a limb about ten feet from the ground, over which he placed one leg. A short time afterwards, Bruin started up after him; and, although the tree was only about five inches in diameter, she succeeded in getting up beneath him. His free leg now came into use, and with all his force he kicked her on the nose and jaw; one unlucky aim, however, sent his foot into her mouth, but she only succeeded in tearing off a portion of the boot with which she descended to the ground, where she thoroughly examined her prize. After this, she proceeded to climb an adjacent tree, the trunk of which leaned in the direction of the one in which the boy was placed. She soon reached a point almost over his head, about twelve feet from him. Fearing she would drop down, he lowered himself to the ground, but was again obliged to ascend, as Bruin came down also. This operation was repeated several times, and it is uncertain how the adventure would have ended, had the boy not succeeded in attracting the attention of a man working in a clearing near by, whose arrival, with his dog, caused the bear to move away. On arriving home, the canine companion of the boy was found with the skin torn from one side of his face. The dog must have been the fleeing object that passed him just before he encountered the bear, and her persistency in following the boy, may be attributed to being enraged beforehand.

R. B. SCRIVEN.

Gravenhurst, Ont., 8th February, 1882.

THE PILEATED WOODPECKER.

In No. 12, Vol. I, you ask your readers for information regarding the nesting habits of (*Hylotanus pilatus*.) In reply to this query, let me say that the nesting habits of this species, differ little from those of the most common of the Woodpeckers; except that the

cavity which it forms for nesting, is of course larger, and generally in a large tree, deep in the woods and high off the ground. I have seen several trees which at different times contained the nest of this species, though I have not obtained the eggs. More than twenty years ago, when I was a boy, residing in the township of Peel, and while engaged in sugar making, I noticed a pair of these birds at the work of nest building, in the trunk of a large beech tree about fifty feet from the ground. This, was, I think, in the latter part of April. In May, the female was hatching, for when the tree was struck with a stick, she would dart out and shortly afterwards return to the nest. In June both birds were constantly seen going in and out of the nest, evidently attending to the wants of the young. While the female was incubating, the loud call of her mate might often be heard in the vicinity. Afterwards in the winter season when the tree was chopped down, I examined the cavity, and found it large enough to contain the body of a grouse. Among the early pioneers this bird was called the "Woodcock," and not until, in after years when I began to study the works of Ornithologists, did I know the true Woodcock to be a very different bird. This bird is the most retired and solitary in its habits of all the Woodpeckers; and, but for its loud, monotonous and exciting call, would scarcely be known to exist. This "outburst" is occasionally heard resounding through the dark pine and hemlock woods, while the feathered hermit is on the top of some lofty tree in the depths of the forest. The call is sometimes heard in mid-winter as well as in the summer season; but it is most frequently heard in early spring or late in the fall, and is by some supposed to indicate a change of weather. The favorite habitat of this bird is the high rolling, hardwood forests, where there is an intermingling of evergreens and the sound of rushing waters and though it may occasionally feed on seeds, fruit, &c., yet its chief food appears to be the larger species of insects and worms which it procures from the bark and trunks of decayed trees. When two of these birds meet—as they sometimes do—while in search of food, on the trunk of a large tree, especially an old hemlock or pine, they soon strip it of its bark and leave the giant of the forest a monument of their strength and industry.

NATURALIST.

Listowell, Ont., February 3, 1882.