

## REPORT OF THE ORNITHOLOGICAL BRANCH, 1902.

(Presented and read March 17th, 1903.)

The following report is submitted by the Ornithological Branch.

We regret to state that there are so few systematic observers of birds and their habits that it is difficult to make a very voluminous report of the work which has been actually done during the past year. No species of birds new to the district were discovered, but the number found here is so limited that after more than twenty years' observations it is not to be wondered at that it is only rarely that a new bird is seen.

Notes of the arrivals of birds were again made by some of the members but these were not printed in THE NATURALIST this year. We hope, however, to soon publish a list giving the average dates of arrival of the different birds for the past five years. Thinking it might prove of interest to the Club we have looked up the dates of arrival for the past seven years of those two first harbingers of spring, the robin and the song sparrow.

Robin : 1897, March 22 ; 1898, March 15 ; 1899, April 6 ; 1900, April 2 ; 1901, March 24 ; 1902, March 15 ; 1903, March 9.

Song Sparrow : 1897, March 18 ; 1898, March 11 ; 1899, April 6th ; 1900, April 1 ; 1901, March 24 ; 1902, March 15 ; 1903, March 13.

The dates of arrival of the prairie horned lark may also be interesting.

Prairie Horned Lark : 1897, February 22 ; 1898, February 18 ; 1899, March 15 ; 1900, February 14 ; 1901, March 1 ; 1902, February 27 ; 1903, February 15.

## DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF MATHERIA, FROM THE TRENTON LIMESTONE AT OTTAWA.

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By J. F. WHITEAVES.

The genus *Matheria* was described by E. Billings in 1858, in the third volume of the Canadian Naturalist and Geologist. It was based upon a single species, the *M. tener* of Billings, a small lamellibranchiate or pelecypodous bivalve, from the Trenton limestone at Lake St. John, P.Q. *Matheria* appears to be most