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follow further  
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grouse, as sufficient has been  
to illustrate the rapidity of their  
hand to guide all who desire to  
them. To be brief, I may add that  
are fully feathered when six weeks  
and fully grown at two months. They  
at this age continue with the mother,  
though at this time not more than  
seven chicks are seen with the prairie  
bird, out of the average original  
of 15, still I think that the loss is  
ioned by their falling victims to  
natural enemies or are destroyed by  
&c.

to be observed that I never yet  
grain in their crops so that it  
not appear that they can be injur-  
standing grain. But when the  
are fully grown they do find their  
to the stacks with a regularity and  
acity which permit the farmer to  
largely to his table luxuries, while  
small damage they can do to the ex-  
parts of the grain in stack is hardly  
estimating.

ey continue on the plains and about  
arms until the first fall of snow  
immediately causes them to depart  
to the timber.

summer they rarely perch on trees,  
even at night, for they sleep squat-  
in the grass, but in winter they  
them their favorite stations and live  
on the browse there gathered. Any  
clump of birch is sure to contain a  
every morning. This is the time  
sportsmen, for now they are fat and  
flavored. They afford good sport,  
and are very hard to kill. Although  
ch seems to be fatal to partridges, a  
en is able to carry almost as much  
as a duck. I shot one which had  
esh of the left breast shot away; it  
are of feathers, and the ribs were  
ed, yet the bird was strong on the  
and seemed active enough.

the winter advances they cease to  
into the plains, their haunts being  
arsely wooded country, especially  
as is sandy and well supplied with  
bushes. In winter they act more  
properly adapted tree dweller than  
of a ground-frequenting bird, for  
ly from one tree to another and  
and walk about the branches with  
et ease, seeming to spend much  
time there than on the ground.  
upon a tree they are not possessed  
that feeling of security from all hun-  
which makes the ruffed grouse so  
prey to pot-hunters. The "pin-

tail" when so situated, is, on the contrary,  
very shy and disposed to fly at 150 yards.  
Like most wild birds they have a fore-  
knowledge of storms and when some  
firewood searcher returning from the  
woods reports that the chickens are go-  
ing into the bush, that is leaving the  
open timber for the denser fir coverts,  
the settler makes ready for a severe  
storm.

The prairie chicken like most of the  
grouse family spend the night in winter  
in a snow drift. Out on the plains the  
wind pounds the snow into drifts of ice,  
like hardness, but in the bush it con-  
tinues soft, this softness affording an-  
other security to the chickens by causing  
the wolves and foxes to quit the bush in  
the winter, though they live there by  
preference the rest of the year. In the  
evening the chickens fly down either  
headlong into a drift or run a little and  
then dive. Each makes his own hole.  
They generally go down six inches or so  
and along about a foot. By morning  
their breath has formed a solid wall in  
front of them so that they invariably go  
out at one end. In Ontario ob-  
servers are less likely to have the  
non-conducting powers of snow impressed  
upon them as in Manitoba, so I  
may illustrate this. For days together  
the thermometer may range at twenty  
degrees below zero (F) with six inches of  
snow resting on a quarter of an inch of  
ice, completely keeping the water beneath  
at a temperature of thirty-two degrees  
above zero. Without the snow the same  
ice increased in a day to a thickness of  
two inches. Likewise, under ten inches  
of snow the ground continued unfrozen,  
after the thermometer had for one month  
ranged from zero to forty degrees below.  
Thus we can easily see that under six  
inches of snow and one inch of feathers,  
the chickens do not suffer even at fifty  
degrees below.

The great disadvantage of the snow-  
bed is that when there the birds are  
more liable to become the prey of foxes,  
etc., whose sagacious nostrils betray the  
very spot beneath which rests a bird in  
sound slumber. I am inclined to think  
that this is the only chance a fox has of  
catching an old bird, so wary are the  
birds at all other times.

As the winter wanes it is not uncom-  
mon for a snow-storm to be accompanied  
with sleet. The storm at once drives the  
chickens into the drifts and after-  
wards levels off the holes they have