

## A NATURALIST IN THE FROZEN NORTH.

By ANDREW HALKETT.

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Their return from the south to that vicinity was observed early in April, and one or more were seen at intervals between then and the 20th of that month, by which date they had fairly established themselves, and were afterwards to be seen daily, at any hour, flying about, or alighting on the tops of the iglows. During the long sunlit days those little birds, together with the dogs, longspurs, and horned larks, lent a picturesqueness to the group of iglows, and were thoroughly at home, among the snow and ice, even when the wind was blowing strongly.

The nest of the snow-bird is a substantial structure, composed chiefly of grasses lined with white feathers; those found by me were placed under large stones.

A Red-poll (*Acanthus linaria*) was caught on the deck of the vessel when we were sailing along the Labrador coast, and a specimen shot whilst it was flying about among the snow-buntings near the vessel and iglows at Fullerton.

"When you see one raven you need only look round to discover a second." So said Father Brehm, and maybe his statement is based upon fact. One or two Ravens (*Corvus corax principalis*) had made their abode at Fullerton, and were often to be seen singly or together throughout the winter. Not requiring to be disguised from enemies, nor in order to obtain its food, this bird is a conspicuous object, and its jet black colour amid its white surroundings, is no doubt an advantage to it in finding its mate.

The Horned or Shore Lark (*Otocoris alpestris*) was occasionally seen among the snow-birds at Fullerton, and the Snowy Owl (*Nyctea nyctea*) was occasionally reported to have been seen in that vicinity. This owl is diurnal as well as nocturnal.

Two eggs, from the same nest, of a Falcon (*Falco*) were found at Fullerton on the 5th of July. In one incubation was advanced, the other was rotten.

The Rock Ptarmigan (*Lagopus rupestris*) was repeatedly seen in various stages of plumage. In the white plumage in the months