

hand it should not be forgotten that they compensate to some extent, at least, by destroying bush rabbits, and therefore, while the sportsman would assuredly look upon them as an enemy, the fruit grower, and those having an interest in forestry, might well class them equally as a useful ally.

FEBRUARY 12.—There was a Richardson's Owl in the straw-shed this morning. Later in the day we tried to feed it with raw meat, but our efforts were unavailable, though it allowed a very close approach, and in fact sat among the meat.

FEBRUARY 19.—Several Eagles, both Golden and Bald, are living upon rabbits along the Souris River. They are seen almost daily and undoubtedly do much good by destroying a pest which has no competitor among mammals injurious to trees. Further up the river both species breed, according to Mr. W. D. Black, of Margaret, Man., who says they are not uncommon in that neighbourhood.

It is indeed unfortunate that these fine birds, together with several large hawks and owls, should be continually shot. Many people seem to think they have done something exceptionally meritorious when they relate the destruction of one of these useful birds. But, it is time such deeds were painted in their true colour, otherwise extermination will follow ignorance and the country will suffer from the increase of numerous rodents such as mice, rats, rabbits, etc., which in the past have been kept within reasonable bounds.

FEBRUARY 20.—The Richardson's Owl mentioned above has twice been up since that date. This morning it was found, as usual, in the straw shed, and, as is customary with these birds, allowed me to approach within a few feet. Later on I discovered it with a house mouse in its claws, which it ate and then disappeared into the woods to sleep.

MARCH 18.—The Canada Jays are now very much together. They are apparently in search of a nesting site and go about very quietly. Sometimes one, presumably the male, sings softly from some low bush, and when they become separated both utter loud cries.

MARCH 30.—The Northern Shrike that has been about here throughout the winter was shot to-day. It has on more than one occasion made itself obnoxious by killing Chickadees, Redpolls, and other small birds. As these had been specially attracted by food, it was impossible to stand by and watch their destruction; and so, after much threatening, the shrike has met the fate he meted out for so many others.

The economic value of these birds is questionable, for though they destroy many mice and House Sparrows, they are most