

Baldpate, *Anas Americana* and the Pintail, *Dafile acuta*, all known as Marsh Ducks, feed on the seeds. The soft portion of this root and the small bulb which forms at the extremity of the roots of the Arrow-leaf (*Sagittaria*) are favorite foods of the Canvas-back, *Aythya vallisneria*, and of the Redhead, *Aythya Americana*. These ducks dive in quite deep water to get the roots and tubers they feed upon, for this reason they are known as River Ducks. The Redhead and Canvas back feed also on what we call the Black rush, by which I mean the round green rush that grows in deep water. They take hold of the rushes and pull them out, thus securing the ripe brown seeds. They then leave the rush without breaking it. In the fall season quite a lot of the remains of the weeds which the ducks have pulled up may be found floating about and lying against the adjacent shores, where portions are eaten by other ducks and water hens. The River Ducks seem to seek the Arrow-leaf roots just as eagerly as they do those of the so-called "Wild Celery" (*Vallisneria*), both being excellent food for the birds.

REVIEW.

STUDIES OF PLANT LIFE IN CANADA, by Catherine Parr Trail, pp. 219. William Briggs, Toronto, Ont., \$2.00.

This long-expected re-print of Mrs. Trail's fascinating book was received too late for a full review in this issue of the OTTAWA NATURALIST, but its appropriateness as a Christmas remembrance from one Nature lover to another is such that the attention of our members should be drawn to it at this time. Mrs. Trail spent the greater part of a long life in the backwoods of Canada and, always a lover of flowers, she has included in her book a record of all that she found most interesting or attractive in them. Mrs. Chamberlain's exquisite drawings with which the work is illustrated in half-tone and color add much to its beauty and value. The original edition was revised and edited by Dr. James Fletcher, and in preparing the present edition for the press Mrs. Chamberlain has had advice from both Dr. Fletcher and Prof. Macoun.