

the European Sparrow does not occur in St. John, and that the season "has not been considered by any means severe," we believe him. The Barred Owl, however, visited several Canadian cities during the early part of the winter, and they were seen killing House Sparrows in the city of Montreal. We advance three reasons in order to account for the unusual occurrence of STRIGIDÆ in cities. 1st. It may have been a prolific year, commonly called a "metropolis year" of the species. 2nd. The severe weather in the northern woodlands would probably prevent an extraordinary number of the birds from obtaining food. 3rd. The introduction of the Domestic Sparrow having induced other rapacious birds, such as the Shrike, &c., to remain with us during winter, leads to the supposition that FALCONIDÆ and STRIGIDÆ would visit the cities to have their share of the importation. We are at a loss to account for the occurrence of the Barred Owl in such numbers in the city of St. John. It occurs to us that a prolific year and want of winter food of those bred on the Northern coast of the Lower St. Lawrence, would cause them to make their flight to more southern localities, consequently crossing the range of the latter city.—Ed.

#### RARA FELIS.

There was trapped last week in the Township of Dummer, within a few miles of the Town of Peterboro', a very rare animal—rare, at least, as far as this County, or perhaps, I may say as far as this Province, is concerned, viz: a red Lynx. It is a male, and judging by its teeth, at least six or seven years old. Its measurements are as follows: Length from ears to insertion of tail, 30 inches; height to shoulder, 20 inches; breadth of forehead 5 inches; length of tail, 6½ inches. Weight 30 lbs. The neck is immensely muscular, but the eyes, claws, and teeth are not so large as those of the Canadian Lynx, *Felis canadensis*. The color is reddish fawn, mottled with brown, with wavy stripes on the inside of the legs; a dark stripe along the back; tip of tail black; throat white; with whitish spots at back of either ear. The man on whose

farm the animal was trapped, had noticed its spoor, very different from the tracks of the Canadian Lynx, for four or five years past, and had shot at it last year, one of the buck-shot being found in the body after it was killed. I saw it soon after it was brought into town, as well as after it had been flayed. It was in excellent condition, quite fat. It had recently killed two sheep, and had probably lived during the winter months on hares (*Lepus Americanus*) which abound in the neighborhood; occasionally, perhaps, varying its menu with *perdrix au naturel*, or a stray squirrel or other small rodents.

VINCENT CLEMENT.

Peterboro', March 21, 1881.

NOTE.—The above is probably the American Wild Cat, *Lynx rufus*, an animal not known to occur in the Province of Quebec. About twenty years ago, it was more abundant in Western Canada. We are sorry to learn that this rare quadruped has been flayed, as the specimen would be quite an acquisition to any Canadian Museum. If the skull is not lost we would be glad to examine it.—Ed.

#### DEERS HORNS, &c.

SIR,—Thank you very much for being so kind in answering my inquiries relative to my Buck Heads. I am not, however, satisfied for the following reasons:—I understand you to say that no deer can be a Royal buck, but an old animal. Now, being a Taxidermist, in my practice, I have found five heads with the same kind of horns, and I am fully satisfied that one of them was not more than three and a half of four years old. Then the ears are smaller and broader between the eyes, than in *Cervus Virginianus*. Besides my buck has a slight elevation on the nose, at the juncture of the bone and cartilage which I have never noticed in *C. Virginianus*. I wish to tender my thanks for your insertion of the Ontario Game Laws; I feel satisfied that Ontario sportsmen will be glad to see it. I notice that you mention a Gos Hawk having been shot at St. Laurent on the 28th Feb. On the 16th March, I received a very handsome specimen which I have set up. They are not plentiful here; merely showing themselves occasionally. Can you tell me, has a Hawk the power of reasoning? I sometimes think they can reason to a certain extent. I have a tame Sparrow Hawk which is in the