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THE

AMERICAN SPORTSMAN

NATURALIST

A
MONTHLY
JOURNAL



VOL. II.
No. 12.
1882.

A. DUNLAP DEL.

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THE CANADIAN SPORTSMAN AND NATURALIST.

No. 12.

MONTREAL, DECEMBER, 1882.

Vol. II.

WILLIAM COUPER, Editor.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

A beautiful young specimen of the rare Least Auk (*Circronia pusilla*), was sent to Montreal to be stuffed. It was mailed a short time ago from Newcastle, N. B., by R. Mackenzie, Esq.

A fine young specimen of the Solan Goose or Gannet (*Sula bassana*) was lately shot by Mr. A. W. Barnes of this city, in the St. Lawrence, near Contrecoeur.

Last August, Baron de la Grange, of Paris, accompanied by Mr. N. A. Comeau of Godbout P. Q., went on a hunting tour through Wyoming and Montana. They had good sport, having killed two grizzlies; thirty-eight buffalo; fifteen wapiti; seventeen black-tailed deer; eleven antelope; five mountain sheep and some smaller quadrupeds. The Baron has several wapiti and other deer heads and skins as trophies.

During this season, Mr. L. A. Boyer, of Montreal, shot young Eider duck (*Somateria mollissima*) near Summerstown, Ont. It is unusual to find these birds so far from the sea. He has had a pair preserved and stuffed. Those birds may possibly be the young of *S. Dresseri*, Sharpe, Ann. Mag. N. H., 1871, figs. 1 and 2. The true Eider has only lately been detected in America, it being the form found by Mr. Kumlien breeding abundantly on the west side of Cumberland Gulf.

AN ENGLISH WOODCOCK SHOT AT CHAMBLY, QUEBEC.

A specimen of the English Woodcock (*Sto-lopax rusticula*), was shot on the 11th ultimo, by a French Canadian at Chambly, P. Q. Colour, size and weight of the bird confused the man, who carried the stranger to Mr. Brock Willett, who knew what it was, but he became incredulous—as we did when it was brought to us in the flesh—that a fat twelve ounce European Woodcock could be obtained in Canada, in November; but its freshness settled the doubt, and the bird is now stuffed.

We believe this is the first specimen shot so far inland in Canada. The other record of a specimen occurring far north on this continent is one taken in Newfoundland in 1866. Dr. Coues in "The American Naturalist," X., No. 6, June, 1876, p. 372, records one specimen as having been shot in Virginia, U. S.

DUCK FEEDING GROUNDS.

"A deputation from the Fish and Game Protection Club, consisting of Messrs. L. A. Boyer, Rinfout, Selkirk Cross, and W. Parker, waited on the Provincial Premier while in Montreal last month, to request a grant of \$250 for the sowing of wild rice in the different duck feeding grounds throughout the province. The deputation was very politely received and their request granted by the Hon. Premier. The grant is to be added to the sum of \$100, which the Club guarantees to raise from amongst its members. It may be mentioned that this can hardly be called a tax upon the province, as the law passed last session compelling strangers to take out sporting licenses has already resulted in the netting of a considerable sum to the province, and which will annually increase, as the sporting grounds are protected and improved."

NOTE.—If wild rice turns out productive in this latitude, several of our lakes and ponds will doubtless have an annual tenfold increase of wildtowl, and the sportsmen of the Province of Quebec will not hereafter complain of having to leave their old hunting grounds in search of game elsewhere. This aquatic plant was sent broadcast into the Canadian waters of Lake Champlain about twelve months ago, and we have been informed that it was coming up last spring. The Fish and Game Club should select good natural localities for the propagation and extension of the seed.

THE WINCHESTER CLUB.

A club has just been organized for the purchase of the hunting grounds in the county of St. Maurice. Besides acquiring some of the bush land about St. Elie, on which a sports-

man's lodge will be built, the club proposes to secure fishing and shooting rights over other land in the county, and will engage in the propagation of fish and preservation of game. The proposed site of operations has been one of the richest hunting and fishing grounds in the province, and with two years protection, the club hope to be able to re-stock the rivers and forests of the county. Salmon will be introduced into some of the rivers. Messrs. W. Skillings, of Bethel, J. P. Spaulding, of Boston, Romeo H. Stephens, of St. Lambert, Sheldon Stephens, of Montreal, and W. H. Parker, St. Elie, have been elected a provisional board of directors. The club will seek incorporation at the next session of the Provincial Legislature, under the name of the Winchester Club, with a capital of \$6,750 divided into thirty shares.

NOTE.—There are good names connected with the above Club, and we will use our influence to make it a success.

ANSWER TO CORRESPONDENT.

John H. Mowlen, Hyde Park, Ont.—Write to S. E. Cassino, 299 Washington St., Boston, U.S. He is the publisher of the "Naturalist's Directory," in which you will find the addresses of the most prominent Taxidermists on this continent. You must send two dollars for the work.

Correspondence.

DEAR SIR,—On page 170 of your Journal you say in answer to a correspondent, that "three other species, viz:—the Scarlet or "Swamp Maple (*Acer saccharinum*); the "Sugar or Rock Maple (*A. nigrum*) are used "as ornamental trees in the neighbourhood of "Montreal." Permit me to point out that you only mention two species in addition to *A. dasycarpum*, and that the Scarlet or Swamp Maple is *Acer rubrum*, the Sugar or Rock Maple is *A. saccharinum*, and that according to Gray, *A. nigrum* is only a variety of *A. saccharinum*.

Yours truly,
H. H. LYMAN.

NOTE.—Our correspondent is correct regarding the above maples. A mistake occurred in the specific names; the Soft or Swamp Maple should be *rubrum*, and the Sugar Maple *saccharinum*; the *nigrum* referred to in our article is a variety of the latter.

MY BARK CANOE.

Fresh from the dusky Indian's hand,
I launched thee on the pebbly strand
Ten years ago; tight, trim and new,
My buoyant, light-built bark canoe,
No white man's hand could fashion thee,
Thy perfect lines curved gracefully;
"A thing of beauty," through and through,
Wert thou my matchless bark canoe!

Oft o'er the Ottawa's rippling swell
I journey'd in thee safe and well;
Steady wert thou as any rock,
Resisting the explosive shock
Of "*Frang-a-Balluck's*" roaring ring,
At swift, black duck upon the wing—
From thee the "chilled" went always true,
My staunch, my beautiful canoe!

Upon thy ribs red stains I see,
Each is a record plain to me
Of scenes gone by—each crimson spot,
A witness of some long range shot,
There lay the quarries side by side,
Arrested in their plumaged pride;
Delightful to a sportsman's view,
My beautiful old bark canoe!

Some killed at eighty yards and more,
Have stained thy sheathing with their gore;
The mallard in his headlong flight
Hurled quivering from his airy height,
The gorgeous wood-duck and the teal—
The strong merganser's wings of steel;
The golden-eye, whose whistling wing
Made Nova Zembla's inlets ring,
Each shattered fell pierced through and through,
To freight my beautiful canoe.

The stately pintail there has lain,
The black duck and the red-head slain—
The bluebill and the lullie-head,
There stretched beside each other dead—
The graceful white-crowned merganser—
The wild goose—Canada's great *anser*—
The osprey from his lightning sweep
Has flutered to eternal sleep,
The huge-winged heron often too
Has graced my beautiful canoe.

There lay the widgeon in his pride,
The mottled spirit duck beside,
The ruffed grouse, yellow leg and rail,
The cackling coot with restless tail,
The snipe, dabchick and golden plover,
The woodcock, monarch of the cover,
The night heron with drooping crest,
The bittern in loose garment drest,
Each has a place in past review,
In thee my beautiful canoe.

And last, not least, the antlered deer,
Has found his final pillow here,
Down from the "mountain's crown" he came,
The proud, majestic king of game!
"Swift in his wake" old Bugle's yell
Rose on the blast with echoing swell;
Like otter through the flood he dashed,
The paddle swept, the rifle flashed,
And on the crashing bullet flew,
He's lying in my bark canoe.

I look on thee through memory's haze,
And see once more the camp fire's blaze,
My loved companions seated round
That almost consecrated ground—
I hear their merry laugh again,

Mirth's careless, joyous, wild refrain ;
The joke, the song, the hunting story,
Return in all their vivid glory—
Green spots of bliss, alas ! how few,
My beautiful old bark canoe !

I look on thee and think upon
The happy days forever gone,
I miss, how sadly, from my side
My spirit's twin, my nanhood's pride,
Thou ready hand, the loving heart,
The soul of my own soul a part,
The gentle voice, the smile which gave
Me courage to be true and brave—
All these were mine when thou wert new,
My beautiful old bark canoe !

WILLIAM PITTMANN LETT.

Ottawa, Nov. 19th, 1882.

AN EXPLANATION BY MR. WHITCHER.

Ridout Bank, Ottawa.

DEAR MR. COPPER,

Attention is drawn to certain passages in an article in *The Canadian Sportsman and Naturalist*, viz:—

"When Mr. Wilmot exhibited his fishes at Ottawa, the Editor of this Journal competed with a collection of stuffed food-fishes from the Province of Quebec; many of the latter species were different from those exhibited by the former gentleman. The Quebec fish collection was offered to the Fisheries Department, at a reasonable price; the offer being made through Mr. Whiteher, who knew the lot was a bargain, and by his request, they were packed and left in Ottawa, to await a reply from the Chief of the Department. Some days afterwards an answer was received that the Department had no money to purchase stuffed fishes, and the collection was brought back to Montreal, where it was immediately purchased by Dr. Sterry Hunt and presented to McGill College Museum. Mr. Wilmot endeavoured to induce Mr. Whiteher to purchase the collection, and probably they now regret not having secured it.

The latter reference to myself is entirely incorrect. Your own recollection of that occasion should have suggested the improbability of this assertion. Please recall the facts: You were a professional exhibitor of stuffed fishes of your own handiwork at the Dominion Exhibition. Mr. Wilmot was President of the Association and exhibited stuffed fishes belonging to the Government, entered in his own name. I objected, through Dr. Sterry Hunt, to these being put in competition for personal prizes or medals, much to Mr. Wilmot's displeasure; and having failed to protect your industry in this way, I promised to do whatever could be done towards securing your valuable exhibit for this Department, and asked you to delay shipment. There are, as correctly stated in this article, no funds provided for such purpose; but as Mr. Wilmot's specimens had been procured out of fish-breeding funds, and were thus placed on exhibition for prizes or medals to himself, my idea was

to acquire your's in the same way through him, and a correspondence was had accordingly. He did not consider your's worth acquiring and so reported. It was therefore inconvenient for the minister to authorize the purchase, and my proposal dropped. I understood that the injustice towards you as a professional was somewhat softened by awarding you a second prize; but the chief prizes and gold or silver medals went the way they were probably intended from their origin.

By referring to a recent number of the *Toronto Globe* you will find it stated, in course of an interview with Mr. Wilmot, that he says "no Taxidermist can be found in Canada whose work would appear in a favorable light," "or whose specimens (presumably of fish) are artistic enough" to be attractive. This accords with his opinion of your's. Unqualified depreciation will doubtless be a surprise if not an amusement to many other Taxidermal artists besides yourself, who are obliged to labor in the business without such public encouragement or private patronage, as in older countries serve to enhance the art and improve the productions of Taxidermy.

I quite agree with the *Sportsman and Naturalist* that facilities should be afforded to form a museum of aquatic animals; and I have striven during several years past to impress its importance on official minds. Time passes rapidly and with it many of the opportunities to make a choice and finished collection are also passing away. The great representative specimens (particularly of our ichthyic fauna) are fast disappearing. We find the want of such a storehouse, as should long since have been formed, in connection with the fisheries service whenever the country requires to participate in public displays. Notably at the present juncture.

The article in question adds, referring to the International Fisheries Exhibition:—"We know that Mr. Wilmot, of Newcastle, Ont., has done his share to make a successful show, but some one in the Department is to blame for procrastination and want of energy." If the reflection is meant for my benefit—as most of the editorial reflects on me personally—your information on this point also is incorrect, as I have had nothing whatever to do with the matter, beyond making a timely statement of what was required to be done in order to do justice to Canada on so important and trying an occasion, offering also some practical suggestions as far back as last winter. Mr.

Wilnot claims to be charged with the duty; and it, as he complains through you and the *Globe*, there is indifference and neglect chargeable against the Canadian Government, and dilatoriness by the Imperial Commission, it must be obvious that the proper way to settle it is with the authority under which he says that he is acting, and certainly not through vague insinuations aimed at "Some one in the Department" on whom the blame of his own anticipated failure may if necessary be conveniently shifted.

This communication has been withheld hoping that Mr. Wilnot would correct the misstatements. Reluctantly and in self defence I now ask you to please do so on my behalf.

Before parting let me add that I fully endorse what you have said of the value to his country, of such a "live" Commissioner of Fisheries as Prof. Baird, and as heartily do I join with you in wishing that we had his like in Canada, to say nothing of his zealous staff of scientists and other practical workers, all supported by ample means and adequate authority. The United States Government thoroughly appreciates the federal fisheries service; and besides maintaining it on a liberal footing, has always treated the able and earnest officer at its head in a spirit of justice and generosity, worthy of the great national interest which he seeks to promote, and the vast productive industry which he labors to develop.

Your obedient Servant,

W. F. WHITCHER.

LIST OF THE BIRDS OF WESTERN ONTARIO.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 187.

126. *Asio Americanus*; Long-eared Owl. Uncommon. Occasionally several may be seen hunting a field in winter like Harriers.
127. *Asio accipitrinus*; Short-eared Owl. Rare. We have only taken four.
128. *Strix nebulosa*; Barred Owl. Common; breeds. Formerly abundant.
129. *Uluu cinerea*; Cinereous Owl. Two in possession of S. Herring, Toronto, shot near London. Very rare in winter.
130. *Nyctale Acadia*; Acadia Owl. Rather rare. Not known to breed.
131. *Scops asio*; Mottled Owl. Our most common Owl. Breeds.
132. *Bubo Virginianus*; Great Horned Owl. Common. Breeds very early.
133. *Nyctale Scandiacae*; Snowy Owl. Occasionally common in winter. More regular along

the lake-shore, especially Lake St. Clair.

134. *Furnia funerea*; Hawk Owl. Very rare. One bought in the flesh in London, 187—. [E. W. Sandys.]

135. *Falco peregrinus navius*; Duck Hawk. Very rare inland. One taken near London, 187—. Frequently seen in fall at St. Clair Flats.

136. *Falco columbarius*; Pigeon Hawk. Rare; three or four taken.

137. *Tinnunculus sparverius*; Sparrow Hawk. Our most common Hawk. Breeds.

138. *Pandion haliaetus Carolinensis*; Fish Hawk. Rare inland. More common along the lake-shore where it breeds.

139. *Elanoides forficatus*; Swallow-tailed Kite. Some years ago a pair of these birds stayed all summer about eight miles North-west of London.

140. *Circus Hudsonius*; Marsh Hawk. Rare inland. Very common along the large marshes, where it breeds.

141. *Accipiter Cooperi*; Cooper's Hawk. Rather common; breeds.

142. *Accipiter fuscus*; Sharp-shinned Hawk. Common in the fall, but only a few breed. Late in September, 1882, large numbers of these hawks were seen on Point Pelee, as many as fifty passing the house in a day. It seems they are equally abundant every year.

143. *Asur atricapillus*; Goshawk. Occurs frequently in winter and regularly at the St. Clair Flats.

144. *Buteo borealis*; Red-tailed Hawk. Common; breeds.

145. *Buteo lineatus*; Red-shouldered Hawk. The most common of our large hawks; breeds.

146. *Buteo Pennsylvanicus*; Broad-winged Hawk. Sometimes common in flocks during migrations. At other times single individuals are rather rare.

147. *Archibuteo lagopus sancti-johannis*; Rough-legged Hawk; Black Hawk. Common in fall at the St. Clair Flats.

148. *Aquila chrysaetos Canadensis*; Golden Eagle. Very rare. Mr. Sandys reports two—one of which was taken in the winter of '71-5 benumbed by cold, and is still alive in captivity.

149. *Haliaeetus leuccephalus*; Bald Eagle. Rather rare. A pair breeds regularly on a lake-side farm in Kent, and several pairs on Point Pelee. Seldom seen in the older districts. The pair on the Kent farm live chiefly on fish and muskrats, taking the former from the water themselves, winter and summer.

150. *Cathartes aura*; Turkey Buzzard. Reported from various points in the St. Clair marshes.

151. *Etopistes migratoria*; Pigeon. Formerly abundant. Now rare except in the less settled districts.

152. *Zenaidura carolinensis*; Dove. Regularly distributed and rather common; breeds. A specimen taken January 6, 1877.

153. *Meleagris gallopavo americana*; Wild Turkey. Formerly common, but now very rare. A nest was found in Middlesex in 1878.

154. *Canace canadensis*; Canada Grouse. One taken near Chatham.

155. *Bonasa umbellus*; Ruffed Grouse. Common; breeds.

156. *Cupido capido*; Prairie Hen. A few are resident at St. Clair Flats.

157. *Ortyx virginianus*; Quail. Common; breeds.

158. *Ardea herodias*; Great Blue Heron. Common. Generally breeds in communities, but occasionally in single pairs.

159. *Herodias alba egretta*; Great White Egret. Regular but rare. near large bodies of water, sometimes even on rivers.

160. *Buteo virescens*; Green Heron. Rather rare. Occasionally quite common.

161. *Nycticorax nycticorax*; Night Heron. Occurs at the St. Clair Flats in small numbers where it probably breeds.

162. *Buteo leucogaster*; Bittern. Rare inland but common at the St. Clair and other marshes, where it breeds.

163. *Ardea exilis*; Least Bittern. Occurs with the last but not quite so common, and more seldom inland.

164. *Streptopelia interpres*; Turnstone. Rare during migrations.

165. *Squatarola helvetica*; Black-bellied Plover. Common migrant.

166. *Charadrius dominicus*; Golden Plover. Formerly occurred in immense flocks. Now regular but in limited numbers in fall inland and during both migrations at the lakes.

167. *Ortyx vociferans*; Killdeer. Rather common; breeds.

168. *Hydrochelidon leucogaster*; Semipalmated Plover. Common at the lakes; uncommon inland.

169. *Hydrochelidon melanotos*; Piping Plover. Common at Point Pelee where it breeds; elsewhere, occurring only along the lake-shore and rare.

170. *Phalaropus lobatus*; Woodcock. Rather common; breeds.

171. *Gallinago media wilsoni*; Snipe. Common in the migrations. Many breeds in the St. Clair marshes as a pair were shot 17-5-'82.

172. *Macrorhamphus griseus*; Robin Snipe. Rare along the lakes.

173. *Actodromus maculata*; Pectoral Sandpiper. Occurs in flocks in the marshes in fall.

174. *Actodromus minutilla*; Least Sandpiper. Occurs rarely inland but is common on the lake-shore.

175. *Pelidna alpina americana*; Dunlin. Common in migrations along the lakes.

176. *Ereunetes pusillus*; Semipalmated Sandpiper. Common migrant at the lake-shore but rare inland.

177. *Calidris arenaria*; Sanderling. Common migrant along the lakes.

178. *Limosa fedea*; Marbled Godwit. Rare migrant along the lakes.

179. *Totanus melanoleucus*; Greater Yellowlegs. Rare inland but more common in the large marshes.

180. *Totanus flavipes*; Little Yellow-legs. Occurs with the preceding.

181. *Rhyacophilus solitarius*; Solitary Sandpiper. In the summer of 1879, this bird bred very commonly along the streams in Middlesex but since then has been quite rare.

182. *Bartramia longicauda*; Bartram's Sandpiper. Very rare. Only one specimen taken.

183. *Tringoides macularius*; Spotted Sandpiper. Common everywhere along streams and marshy spots.

184. *Numenius longirostris*; Long-billed Curlew. Formerly occurred as far inland as Middlesex—probably never now. Rather common migrant in the large marshes.

185. *Phalaropus fulicarius*; Red Phalarope. Very rare. Dr. Garnier shot one out of a flock of six in the fall of 1880 at Mitchell's Bay.

186. *Lepidus hyperboreus*; Northern Phalarope. Rare. Three taken in Middlesex; one found dead at Mitchell's Bay in May 1882.

187. *Steganopus Wilsoni*; Wilson's Phalarope. Very rare. One taken May, 1882, at Mitchell's Bay.

188. *Recurvirostra americana*; Avocet. Extremely rare. One taken in the spring of 1860, at Rondeau. [E. W. Sandys.]

189. *Rallus elegans*; King Rail. Common at St. Clair Flats where it breeds. Meltwaith gives Clapper Rail but not King Rail—probably a case of mistaken identity as it is improbable that the Clapper will occur.

190. *Rallus virginianus*; Virginia Rail. Rare inland but common at all the large marshes, where it breeds.

191. *Porzana carolina*; Carolina Rail. Uncommon inland but breeds abundantly in the large marshes.

192. *Porzana noveboracensis*; Little Yellow Rail. Rare in the large marshes.

193. *Gallinula galeata*; Florida Gallinule. Breeds very abundantly in the large marshes.

194. *Fulica americana*; Coot. Almost as abundant as the last, and is also taken in the rivers inland.

195. *Grus canadensis*; Sand-hill Crane. Extremely rare in the large marshes.

196. *Olor Americanus*; Whistling Swan. Occurs regularly at St. Clair and other suitable places.

197. *Olor buccinator*; Trumpeter Swan. In Jour. Proc. Linn. Soc., 1865, Rev. W. Hineks (Toronto) says: "*O. buccinator* is our commonest species." It must, therefore, occur with the other at St. Clair Flats, although we have no record of it.

198. *Chen hyperboreus*; Snow Goose. Very rare. Two specimens taken (E. W. Sandys).

199. *Anser albifrons gambeli*; White-fronted Goose. Rare Migrant.

200. *Bernicla canadensis*; Canada Goose. Common migrant.

201. *Bernicla brenta*; Brant. Rather rare migrant.

202. *Anas boschas*; Mallard. Uncommon inland but common migrant in the large marshes where a few breed.

203. *Anas obscura*; Black Duck. Common migrant. A few breed in the large marshes, also taken inland.

204. *Chauleasmus streperus*; Gray Duck. Rather rare but occurs regularly at St. Clair.

205. *Dafila acuta*; Pintail. Common. Breeds at St. Clair.

206. *Marcca Americana*; Widgeon. Rather common. May breed.

207. *Spatula clypeata*; Shoveller. Rather rare at St. Clair Flats, and may breed.

208. *Querquedula discors*; Blue-winged Teal. Common. A few still breed at St. Clair.

209. *Nettion Carolinensis*; Green-winged Teal. Common migrant. Not known to breed.

210. *Aix sponsa*; Wood Duck. Regularly distributed and rather common. Breeds along the marshes and rivers.

211. *Fulix marila*; Scamp Duck. Very common migrant. A few breed at St. Clair. Also taken common inland.

212. *Fulix affinis*; Bluebill. Like the preceding. Also taken common inland.

213. *Fulix collaris*; Ring-billed Duck. Common in some migrations in the large marshes.

214. *Ethya callisneria*; Canvas-back. Rather rare at St. Clair Flats. Migrant.

215. *Ethya Americana*; Redhead. Very common migrant, and some breed in the large marshes. Also taken inland.

216. *Clangula glaucinim Americana*; Golden-eye. Rather common migrant. Also taken inland.

217. *Clangula albicollis*; Bufflehead. Common migrant and a few breed at St. Clair Flats. Also taken inland quite common.

218. *Harcbia glacialis*; Long-tailed Duck. Rather rare migrant at St. Clair. An immature

male was picked up in the snow January, 1881, near Hyde Park.

219. *Elemia Americana*; Scoter. Rare migrant.

220. *Melanetta celerina*; Velvet Scoter. Very rare migrant.

221. *Erimaturus rubida*; Ruddy Duck. Abundant migrant and a few breed in the marshes. Also taken inland, common.

222. *Mergus merganser Americanus*; Goosander. Common migrant both on rivers and lakes.

223. *Mergus serrator*; Red-breasted Merganser. Rare migrant.

224. *Lopholytes cucullatus*; Hooded Merganser. Common migrant both inland and at the lakes.

225. *Pelecanus erythrorhynchus*; White Pelican. One taken near Chatham 187—; also one near Ingersol several years ago.

226. *Phalacrocorax carbo*; Cormorant. Occurs rarely along the lakes.

227. *Larus argentatus Smithsonianus*; Herring Gull. Common. Probably breeds.

228. *Larus Philadelphicus*; Bonaparte's Gull. Common in spring in fall.

229. *Sterna Forsteri*; Forster's Tern. Common; breeds at St. Clair.

230. *Sterna fluvialis*; Common Tern. Breeds at St. Clair but in smaller numbers than the last.

231. *Hydrochelidon lariformis surinamensis*; Black Tern. Breeds very abundantly at St. Clair marshes.

232. *Podiceps Holbolli*; Red-necked Grebe. Very rare; one taken at Mitchell's Bay.

233. *Dytex arcticus*; Horned Grebe. Breeds abundantly at St. Clair Flats.

234. *Podilymbus podiceps*; Carolina Grebe. Breeds abundantly at St. Clair Flats.

235. *Columbus torquatus*; Loon. Common in the large marshes and at some points in the lakes. Breeds.

236. *Columbus septentrionalis*; Red-throated Diver. Very rare. One shot on the Thames near London in spring 1881. Occasional at St. Clair Flats.

INTELLIGENCE AND HUMOUR IN A HORSE.

A friend and neighbor of mine, recently informed me, that a few years ago, his father possessed a colt which exhibited proofs of intelligence amounting to reason, and also to a certain degree of a sense of humour. The stables on his farm are ranged in a row under the barn, and the lower doors are fastened, as usual, with a long wooden bolt. The colt learned in some way how to draw back the bolts, and so to open the stable doors and let out all the other horses which stood loose in the stalls. He then

seemed thoroughly to enjoy the mischief he had done. In order to prevent this practice, which became troublesome, holes were bored in the doors behind the bolts, and wooden pins inserted, so that the bolts could not be drawn back without first taking out these pins. For some time this device baffled the colt, but before long he found out how to evade it, and used to pull out the pin with his teeth, draw the bolt and let the door fall open as before. He would then gallop off with the pin in his mouth and drop it where it could never be found again. After having thus opened the doors and let out the horses, his master would often try to catch him, but the stables communicated with one another at the back, and the colt used to dodge the old man in at one door and out at the other, as in pure fun or mischief, until some one of the younger and more active men, came with a stick and brought him to terms. The above acts indicate no low order of reason, and certainly look as if the colt enjoyed playing the pranks and witnessing the discomfiture of his master.

E. W. CLAYPOLE,

New Bloomfield, Perry Co., Pa. }

Nov., 26th 1882. }

CANADIAN OÖLOGY.

DEAR SIR,—I am much interested in the list of Western Canadian Birds contributed by Messrs. Morden and Saunders, to the November number of your Journal. Having promised to continue my experience in Oölogical study during the past season, I beg to send the following notes:—The *Wood Thrush* and *Wilson's Thrush*, are quite abundant in this vicinity, but until the past summer I had but little personal knowledge of the *Hermit Thrush*. In June last, however, I discovered three nests of the latter species. The first, which contained four eggs, was placed in a low beech bush, nearly two feet from the ground, and was composed of dry leaves, stalks of dry weeds, bramble, rotten wood, rinds and small roots. Surrounding the nesting-place was a thick growth of low brushwood. The second nest containing four eggs, was placed in an old turned up root, about four feet from the ground, and in the midst of a grove of young tamarac. When discovered, the bird was sitting on the nest and I could have caught her had I wished to do so. The third nest, containing two eggs, was placed in a bunch of yellow water lilies, a few inches above the water of a pool. Early in April I saw a solitary specimen of the

Olive-backed Thrush, but I have not yet discovered its nest. On the 6th of June, I noticed a small species of Thrush, new to me, building her nest. The site chosen was a cavity in a low bank, overshadowed by a small hemlock, on the margin of a swamp, near water. A large quantity of dry leaves was used in raising the foundation to the required position. When I visited it a week after, the foundation of the nest was burrowed by some small animal, but I found one egg beneath it. This egg was marked exactly like that of the *Golden-crowned Thrush*; but it was much smaller in size. The other nest of this species, which contained five eggs, was placed in a corner of a turned up root, the top of which hung over, sheltering it from sun, rain, and observation, and beneath which was a pool of water. The female sat upon this nest until my hand was a few inches off. The colour of the bird was slaty-black on the upper parts, yellow below, with black marks extending downwards from the throat. Length five inches; common notes, a sharp "chip." Song of the male resembling the words "dure dure lily, dure lee." I have since identified this species as the *Large-Billed Water Thrush*, (*Scirurus ludovicianus*). On the 8th of June, I discovered the nest of a species of warbler hitherto unknown to me. This was situated in a small balsam, (in a black ash swamp,) four feet from the ground, and formed of small stalks of weeds, rootlets and fine hair, much in form and size like the nest of the *Chipping Sparrow*. This nest contained four fresh eggs, white in colour, with a ring of reddish spots towards the largest end and a few dots of the same hue near the centre. I identify the latter species as the *Myrtle Bird*, or *Yellow-Rump Warbler*, (*Dendroeca coronata*). The nest and eggs are in my collection. I also collected for the first time, two nests of the *Chestnut-sided Warbler*. One was situated in a cluster of raspberry vines; the other, in a small scrubby beech; the first contained two of its own eggs, and two *Cowbird's*; the other, four, and one *Cowbird's*. The eggs of the *Cowbird* were also found in the nests of the *Black Snowbird*, *Swamp Sparrow*, *Song Sparrow*, *Chipping Sparrow*, *Yellow Warbler*, *Golden-crowned Thrush*, *Red-eyed Vireo* and *Water Wagtail*. This latter nest was the first of this species that I have seen; it was placed in the cavity of a large turned up root, over a pool of water, into which the bird jumped when she left the

DAVID GILBERT

nest. The nest was like that of the Snowbird, and contained four of its own eggs, besides that of the Cowbird. These were white, thickly dotted towards the large end, with reddish spots. They were, however, (June 8th,) nearly incubated; so I did not remove them. On the 7th of June, I collected in a beaver meadow, some two miles north of the town, three nests of the Purple Finch; these were situated near the tops of small balsams. Four eggs are the general set. On the same date, I took from a small thorn bush, a nest of two eggs, which I have marked as belonging to the Black and Yellow Warbler. The Yellow Warbler is quite abundant in this neighbourhood now, though it is only a few years ago since I first noticed it, and the same may be said of the Bobolink. The Catbird is numerous in this locality, I have seen several nests this season, but never, except on one occasion, saw more than four eggs in a nest. The Red-wing Blackbird is also numerous; collected several nests this season, mostly from flags in water ponds, or the margins of creeks. The Highholder or Golden-winged Woodpecker, is the most abundant of this class of birds here; I have collected some five or six sets of its eggs this year. There are generally six eggs in each set. Altogether I have collected eggs of some forty different species of wild birds this season, and obtained seven additional species by exchange, from J. A. Morden, Esq. I have now in my collection specimens of the eggs of nearly seventy Canadian birds. When in London, on the 27th of September, last, I identified among the grand collection of Canadian and foreign birds, exhibited by J. A. Morden, Esq., a specimen of Cooper's Hawk, as the species whose nest and eggs I described in my last article.

WM. L. KELLS.

Listowel, Ont., Nov. 1882.

COLEOPTERA FOUND IN THE PROVINCE OF QUEBEC.

By WILLIAM COOPER.

PHYGANOPHILES collaris, *Lec.*
 STENOTRACHELUS arcuatus, *Say.*
 CRYMODES discicollis, *Lec.*
 PYTHO Americana, *Kirby.*
 PRIOGNATHUS monilicornis, *Baird.*
 BORUS unicolor, *Say.*
 SALPINGUS virescens, *Lec.*
 CALOPUS angustus, *Lec.*

This insect has a wide distribution, from New Mexico to the city of Quebec. Mr. Provancher says it is rare about the neighbourhood of the latter city. When I collected there, they were abundant at the upper end of St. John St., near the Finlay Asylum.

DRYULUS coerulesus, *Rand.*

NARCEDES melanura, *Lin.*

OXASIS 1 notoxioides, *Fabr.*

2 thoracica, "

ASCLERA ruficollis, *Say.*

CEPHALOOX lepturides, *Newm.*

ANASPIS 1 flavipennis, *Hald.*

2 rufa, *Say.*

MORDELLA 1 marginata, *Mels.*

2 linearis, "

MORDELLISTENA 1 scapularis, *Say.*

2 pityoptera, *Lec.*

PELECOTOMA flavipes, *Mels.*

CORPHYRA 1 lugubris, *Say.*

2 collaris, "

3 fulvipes, *Newm.*

NOTOXUS anchora, *Hentz.*

ANTHICUS 1 rejectus, *Lec.*

2 formicarius, *Laf.*

3 floralis, *Payk.*

4 corvinus, *Laf.*

DENDROIDES Canadensis, *Latr.*

PYROCHROA flabellata, *Fabr.*

SCHIZOTUS cervicollis, *Newm.*

MELOE angusticollis, *Say.*

MACROBASIS unicolor, *Kirby.*

ERICACTA 1 Pennsylvanica, *DeGeer.*

2 vittata, *Fabr.*

POMPHOPAEA aenea, *Say.*

MYODITES 1 fasciatus, *Say.*

1 styloides, *Newm.*

BARYNOTUS undulatus, *Uhler.*

SITONIS 1 lepidus, *Gyll.*

2 scissifrons, *Say.*

PANDELETRIUS hilaris, *Herbst.*

OTIORYNCHUS 1 sulcatus, *Herbst.*

2 ligneus, *Oliv.*

CYTHOMIMUS dorsalis, *Horn.*

L'abbé Provancher described this species as MICRONYCHUS sulcatus which falls, it being preoccupied by OTIORYNCHUS sulcatus, *Fabr.* The insect is now known as C. dorsalis as above.

PHYXELIS glomerosus, *Schoen.*

LISTRONOTUS 1 appendiculatus, *Boh.*

2 latiscapus, "

ITHYGERUS Novaboracensis, *Forst.*

PHYTONOTUS nigrirostris, *Fabr.*

LIXIS musculus, *Say.*

LEPYRUS colus, *Lin.*

Continued from page 188 No. 11.

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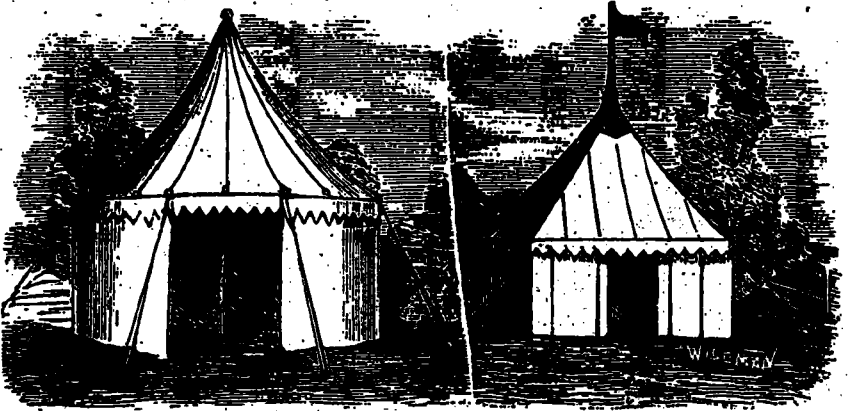
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