

## Technical and Bibliographic Notes / Notes techniques et bibliographiques

Canadiana.org has attempted to obtain the best copy available for scanning. Features of this copy which may be bibliographically unique, which may alter any of the images in the reproduction, or which may significantly change the usual method of scanning are checked below.

Canadiana.org a numérisé le meilleur exemplaire qu'il lui a été possible de se procurer. Les détails de cet exemplaire qui sont peut-être uniques du point de vue bibliographique, qui peuvent modifier une image reproduite, ou qui peuvent exiger une modification dans la méthode normale de numérisation sont indiqués ci-dessous.

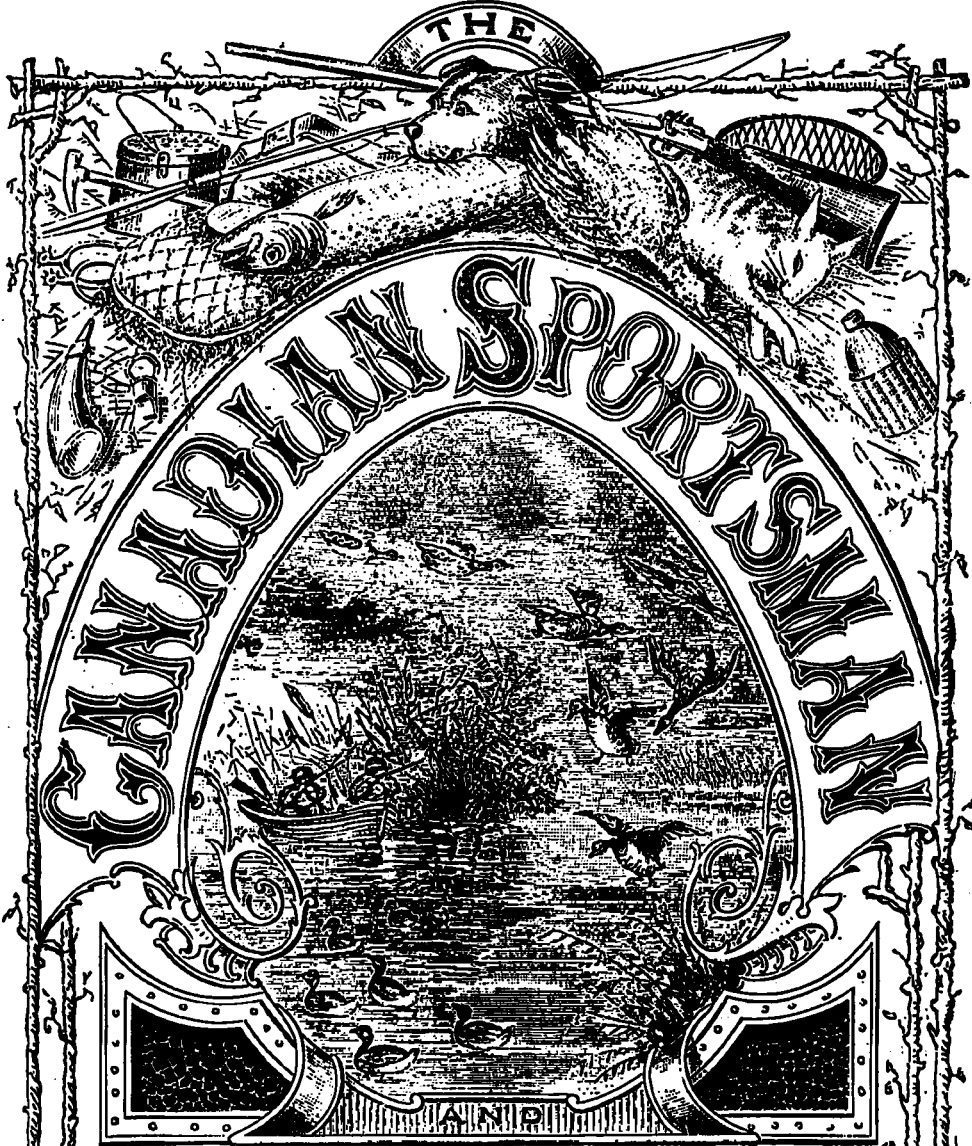
- Coloured covers /  
Couverture de couleur
- Covers damaged /  
Couverture endommagée
- Covers restored and/or laminated /  
Couverture restaurée et/ou pelliculée
- Cover title missing /  
Le titre de couverture manque
- Coloured maps /  
Cartes géographiques en couleur
- Coloured ink (i.e. other than blue or black) /  
Encre de couleur (i.e. autre que bleue ou noire)
- Coloured plates and/or illustrations /  
Planches et/ou illustrations en couleur
- Bound with other material /  
Relié avec d'autres documents
- Only edition available /  
Seule édition disponible
- Tight binding may cause shadows or distortion  
along interior margin / La reliure serrée peut  
causer de l'ombre ou de la distorsion le long de la  
marge intérieure.
- Additional comments /  
Commentaires supplémentaires:

Continuous pagination.

- Coloured pages / Pages de couleur
- Pages damaged / Pages endommagées
- Pages restored and/or laminated /  
Pages restaurées et/ou pelliculées
- Pages discoloured, stained or foxed/  
Pages décolorées, tachetées ou piquées
- Pages detached / Pages détachées
- Showthrough / Transparence
- Quality of print varies /  
Qualité inégale de l'impression
- Includes supplementary materials /  
Comprend du matériel supplémentaire
- Blank leaves added during restorations may  
appear within the text. Whenever possible, these  
have been omitted from scanning / Il se peut que  
certaines pages blanches ajoutées lors d'une  
restauration apparaissent dans le texte, mais,  
lorsque cela était possible, ces pages n'ont pas  
été numérisées.

THE

# CHAMPLAIN SPORTSMAN



## NATURALIST

A  
MONTHLY  
JOURNAL



VOL. III.  
No. 6.  
1883.

AT BURLINGAME, DEL.

MONTREAL

WILSON & CO.

# CHOICE SPORTING GUNPOWDER

Guaranteed both Cleaner and  
Stronger than Imported  
Brands.

## CANADIAN RIFLE,

For accurate Long Range Shooting.

## DUCKING.

Extra Strong, for Water Fowl, &c.

## DIAMOND GRAIN,

Fine Grain, for Muzzle Loading  
Guns.

## CARIBOU,

Very quick, for Prize Matches, &c.

Naturalists and Sportsmen who  
wish their shooting to be both enjoy-  
able and successful, should make sure  
that their Cartridges are loaded with  
high grade instead of inferior Powder.

If the above brands are not kept  
by your Gunsmith, address the Manu-  
facturers:

## HAMILTON POWDER CO.

103 St. Francois Xavier St., Montreal.

69 James Street West, Hamilton.

253 Main Street, Winnipeg.

177 Hollis Street, Halifax.

## IMPORTANT

— to —

## SPORTSMEN and TRAVELLERS!

*A HOME COMFORT*

— FOR —

Field and Camping-Ground

A cup of delicious coffee can be made instan-  
taneously and without any trouble, by using

## LYMAN'S

### Concentrated Extract of Coffee.

No Coffee Pot required.

Full Directions with each Bottle.

FOR SALE BY ALL GROCERS.

Sample Size, - - 5 Cents a Bottle.

## CULEXIFUGE!

THE

## Mosquito Hunter,

The only Effectual Preventive  
of the attacks of

*MOSQUITOES,*

*BLACK FLIES,*

*FLEAS,*

*ANTS, &c., &c.*

IN USE BY SPORTSMEN

For over Thirty Years.

Neatly put up in convenient Bottles.

Small Size, - - 25 Cents a Bottle.

Large Size, - - 50 " "

WHOLESALE BY

## LYMAN, SONS & CO.

# THE CANADIAN SPORTSMAN AND NATURALIST.

No. 6.

MONTREAL, JUNE, 1883.

Vol. III.

WILLIAM COUPER, Editor.

## A NEW WORK ON THE BIRDS OF CANADA.

We have received a copy of "Les Oiseaux du Canada," by Mr. C. E. Dionne, curator of the Zoological Museum of Laval University, Quebec. It is a neatly printed volume containing nearly three hundred pages and several wood cuts. The author has adopted the classification and nomenclature of Doctor Coues, and gives a short description of each species with notes upon their distribution, etc. From the title of the work it is evidently intended not to be local; we would like to have seen a more complete account of the birds of the Dominion, many species occurring in Manitoba and other western portions not being included. In note to Brown Thrasher, Mr. Dionne states: "This species is probably not found in Quebec though common in Ontario." This is a mistake, as during the past few years these Thrushes have been abundant in the neighbourhood of Montreal and breed here regularly. The Yellow-throated Vireo is also rather common here in the spring, and the Logger-head Shrike very common, breeding in suitable localities throughout the island. The Meadow Lark is also found in many places in the Eastern Townships. Numerous other errors of distribution also appear but we are not surprised at this, and must expect some years to elapse before local ornithologists will study up the birds occurring in their respective localities and furnish material from which can be compiled a standard work upon the subject.

With regard to the Cow bird, Mr. Dionne states: "Quelques naturalistes ont affirmé que l'Étourneau ne construisit point de nid, qu'il déposait furtivement ses œufs dans des nids de Pinsons, de Fauvettes, etc. C'est une erreur, comme le remarque M. l'abbé Provancher, qui a eu occasion de voir lui-même

plusieurs de ces nids et presque toujours dans les conifères. Il pond 5 ou 6 œufs bleu tendre, tachetés de roussâtre."

That this bird should have abandoned the habit of depositing its eggs in the nests of other birds and taken to nest-building, we are not prepared to credit. If Mr. Dionne can corroborate his statement, it will prove an interesting fact for ornithologists, if not, it is a serious mistake for a writer to make with regard to one of our best known birds.

## THE FOX-COLOURED SPARROW.

During my summer visits to the Island of Anticosti and the north shore of the St. Lawrence, I have had many opportunities of watching this beautiful sparrow. In fact it was on the Labradorian coast that I first heard its delightful song, and although the notes are few, they are given in a sweet, clear, distinct tone; but when several males are responding, they seem to cheer and add life to their dreary surroundings; the call is certainly pleasant to the ear of man, more especially when he is alone in a region where the song of no other bird is heard. All this class of birds have their peculiar nuptial notes—that of the White-throated Sparrow is said to represent the words:—*Farmer-pay-the-rent-pay-the-rent*, while those of the Fox-coloured Sparrow sounds to my ear like, *O-dear-dear-pretty-pretty creature*. I do not think it has been found nesting in the Province of Quebec, west of Godbout. As far as I could discover, its summer retreat is in the bays of Anticosti and the woodlands skirting the north coast of the Lower St. Lawrence. It seldom nest on the ground, as those which I found were in small trees on the margin of rivers or creeks not far from the sea. Before the nesting season when pairing, the males will frequently fight as vigorously as the English house

Sparrow is seen to do in the streets of Montreal. While collecting insects at Ellis Bay Anticosti, two male Fox-coloured Sparrows were having a battle within a yard of where I stood, and they were so earnest in the affair that I caught them in my insect-net; they apparently had no fear of my presence. I gave the little pugilists their liberty, and in a few minutes afterward, both were singing as cheerfully as if nothing had happened.—C.

#### THE GOSHAWK.

(*Astur atricapillus*.)

A very fine adult female of this falcon was sent from Coaticook to Montreal, early this month, (July). We do not frequently see it in summer. It is generally more abundant between the months of October and January.

#### THE ENGLISH HOUSE SPARROW.

Dr. Elliot Coues, an eminent American ornithologist says that no step now likely to be taken can end in the extermination of these birds; they have multiplied so rapidly since their introduction on this side of the Atlantic, that it is useless to try the experiment. Some time ago the Corporation of Montreal were anxious to have the sparrows destroyed, suggesting poison as a means to kill them. They could never succeed by this mode, as the birds are now extensively distributed over temperate America, therefore a continual supply would come from adjacent cities and towns, and it would take years to get rid of them. The English Sparrow is preyed upon, since his introduction here, by cats, hawks, owls and shrikes; he survives, enjoying the climate and our habitations, and not particular as to the kinds of food he eats.—C.

#### MONTREAL BRANCH, ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF ONTARIO.

The tenth annual meeting of this Society was held on the 8th May last, at the residence of H. H. Lyman, Esq., President. The

Annual Report showed that though the students of this branch of Natural History in Montreal are few in number, the interest of the meetings is well kept up. Six original papers were read during the year, and many observations on the insect life of Montreal stand on record in the minutes of the Society. The following gentlemen were elected officers for the ensuing year: G. J. Bowles, President; W. Couper, Vice-President; F. B. Caulfield, Secretary-Treasurer. Members of Council, H. H. Lyman, J. G. Jack, W. Shaw and H. Graves.

#### MR. WHITCHER ON FISH CULTURE IN CANADA.

We have before us, a long letter from Mr. W. F. Whitcher in "Forest and Stream," which is both astounding and instructive at this instant when fish-culturists from all parts of the world are assembled at the Fisheries Exhibition in London, England. Of course Mr. Whitcher substantiates the fact that eggs can be artificially fecundated; that their *ova* have been successfully transported from America to Europe, and are there being developed into living fish. But "what remains yet to be done is to convince the world that a proportion of such prolific hatchings and abundant distribution, commensurate to the prodigious numbers hatched and liberated alive, has reached maturity and reappeared in commercial and industrial channels as a commodity of trade and an article of supply to such an appreciable extent as the faithful are justified in expecting. The multiplication of the marketable food fishes, as evidenced by the actual catch, is what remains to be proved. There can, I presume, be no doubt, that the public tax-payer has a right to demand this proof; and Canada, Parliament and the press are already asking for it in somewhat impatient terms." It is not our wish to disparage Mr. Wilmot's enthusiastic efforts as a fish-breeder, but honestly speaking, Mr. Whitcher is correct in alluding to "prac-

tial results," when he says "the truest interest of the enlarged propagation of fish, and the immense increase of food which we anticipate from artificial methods and their auxiliaries, that we should now begin to consider seriously the economic as the chief of 'practical results.'"

Fish hatching commenced in Canada about fifteen years ago; now there are eleven government fish hatcheries, eight of which are occupied in developing salmon *ova* only; two are employed in hatching salmon, white fish and trout eggs, and one hatches whitefish and pike-perch, and the entire cost of these public establishments to date is \$259,100. We will look further into this matter in a future issue, but in the meantime it is evident that Mr. Whiteher has given a clear statistical statement showing that we have been wasting money without reaping the fruits.

#### PROTECTION FROM INSECT ATTACK.

Mr. J. A. Lintner, the New York State Entomologist has sent us a pamphlet wherein he propounds a new principle in protection from insect attack. He says "it will be readily conceded that the use of preventives, whenever practicable, is more economical, more effective, and often more convenient than a resort to remedies." His object is to prevent insects from depositing their eggs on their food plants, and he says it can be and has been done with perfect success in many instances. By applying to the plant or to the soil certain odorous substances which are disagreeable to the insect, and therefore to drive it away; contending that the larger proportion of the insect world are guided in their natural habits by the sense of *smell*. The popular idea that many insects attacking vegetation select their food plants whereon to deposit their eggs by the sense of sight is evidently erroneous, and not in accordance with his investigations. He has watched "the incomprehensible acuteness shown by an insect in the discovery

of the particular species of plant upon which alone the young caterpillars could feed, in the discovery of a single individual of a rare species occurring in a certain locality, and growing in such a manner as effectually to hide it from human observation. When its range of food plants extends beyond a species to all the members of a genus, how could it detect all of the greatly differing forms? When a still broader range embraces the several genera of an extended order, a still greater variety of form are presented, which the rude insect brain must group and classify, and claim within its province. How amazing such knowledge without previous instruction. It had no parents living as in the class of Vertebrates, which might teach it by example. It had no ancestors a whit wiser than itself from which to learn. The deposit of the egg in its place may have been but the second voluntary act in its imago life, regarding that of flight for the purpose as the first. Perhaps a plant from some distant shore, of which not one of its ancestry could have any knowledge, is brought within its range of wing; its flight is unhesitatingly directed to it, and its precious burden of eggs, without a shadow of mistrust, is at once committed to its leaves. Such knowledge has never been attained by our most distinguished botanists, and it is beyond the scope of human intellect. We have called its displays instinct, a word conveniently framed to cover manifestations in other classes of animated beings which we are utterly unable to explain. As a partial explanation of these wonders, it has been suggested that to the insect world may have been given senses differing in number and in kind from those that we possess. But all the wonderful phenomena attendant upon insect oviposition by selection, is readily explained under the supposition that it is guided and controlled by the sense of smell, and notwithstanding the laborious investigations in insect structure, conducted through a century by some of our most distinguished scientists, we are utterly

unable to point out with positive certainty the precise location and nature of the organs of smell." Among the odorous substances which Mr. Lintner mentions are, kerosene oil, coal tar, naphthaline, carbolic acid, gas-lime and bisulphide of carbon. These he says have been successfully used to change the natural odor of the plant with which the insect is familiar, and while the latter is neutralized, eggs will not be deposited on the plant, it will be preserved from such attack as effectually as if it were inclosed in glass." Mr. Lintner deserves our thanks for this contribution to economic entomology, and we trust that he will continue the experiments. It would be serviceable to Horticulture if some trials were first made on the insects infesting the fruit trees. By odorising the apple, pear, plum and kindred species during the season when their insect enemies are on the wing, some interesting and probably important discoveries may be made. We know that several of our injurious insects are not particular what kind of food they eat, and the checkmating of an insect enemy on one fruit producing tree may compel it to attack another of equal value, if its odor leads the insect to it. Instance *Teloa polyphemus* which has been recorded by Mr. W. Brodie, of Toronto, to feed on forty-nine distinct plants. Can it be possible that plants belonging to the Orders: Tiliaceae, Rosaceae, Grossulaceae, Hamamelidaceae, Cupuliferae, Juglandaceae, Betulaceae, and Salicaceae, have similar odors to attract this moth? That insects possess organs of smell have been repeatedly illustrated, the difficulty is to discover their location. It is indeed curious to notice the mode in which some insects select food-plants for their progeny. They appear to go directly to the plant, but whether they discover it from odor or the sense of sight remains a mystery. Our experience is that when we visit a swamp in summer, female mosquitoes pounce on us greedily, but if a mixture of coal-tar and olive oil is rubbed on our hands and face, we remain there without being

annoyed by insect parasites. They will certainly come and touch us, showing clearly that they do so by means of sight, but they leave when the odor of coal-tar affects them. Mosquitoes are diurnal and nocturnal in their flight, and can be very vigorous during both times, alighting on your face at night, is evidence that their eyes at all events, are suited for daylight and darkness. Why is it that black flies which are so severe in open air in daylight, will not touch a person within a house? I have seen the panes of glass in houses on the Island of Anticosti, covered with these insects, but they did not annoy the people while inside the house. The eyes of the black fly are apparently intended for light alone, as they retire on the approach of night.—C.

#### THE COW BIRD.

*Molothrus ater*, Bodd.

More than usual interest is attached to the history of this bird from the peculiar habit possessed by it of depositing its eggs in the nests of other birds, leaving to them the duty of incubation and brood rearing. Although few ornithologists have witnessed a cow bird in the act of depositing its eggs, it is well known that this is accomplished in the ordinary manner, during the owners absence from the nest. The foster-parents selected are usually birds of a small size, and it is interesting to observe the actions of the various species to whose care has been confided the apparently not agreeable task of bringing up the offspring of this vagabond bird. Some species appear to view the introduction of the strange egg with more complacency than others. Dr. Brewer mentions a case in which a Red-eyed Vireo hatched three of these eggs, without hatching any of her own, and as many as five have been discovered in nests of the Black and White Creeper and Towhee Bunting. It is seldom, however, that more than one egg is deposited in a nest; especially those of such small birds as the Warblers or Chipping Sparrow, this is usually laid soon after the completion of the nest, sometimes before the owners are ready to lay, in which case the nest is often abandoned. The Summer War-

bler although usually accepting the introduction of the strange egg, when some of her own have been laid, has frequently adopted the ingenious device of adding another storey to its nest, thus effectually getting rid of the obnoxious egg. I have also on one occasion found the nest of a Redstart so constructed, the lower storey containing a single egg of the Cow bird, and the upper four of its own. No further proof need be required of the antipathy of these birds to incubate eggs other than their own, and we cannot but admire the extraordinary intelligence displayed in thus burying the intruder, though the reason for their being compelled to accept a task so obnoxious remains as much a mystery as ever. It has been alleged with regard to the Cuckoo of Europe, whose habits are similar, that the eggs mature at long intervals, rendering it inconvenient for the bird to construct a nest and attend to incubation in the ordinary manner, thus justifying to a certain extent its conduct in depositing its eggs in the nests of other birds. However pretty, or true, this may be with regard to the Cuckoo, I do not think the Cow bird is less prolific, or regular in this respect than other birds. That they lay several eggs, and at ordinary intervals, can hardly be doubted from the comparative scarcity of the birds in some places and the number of nests found containing their eggs. Whether more than one egg is deposited in a nest by the same bird, it is impossible to state, the fact of finding a greater number does not prove them to have been laid by the same female, though from the similarity of the markings of different eggs found in the same nest, it has been thought that more than one has sometimes been laid by the same bird. The Red-eyed Vireo appears to show less concern about the reception of the egg than many others, and two eggs are frequently found in nests of this species. It has not been definitely stated by ornithologists whether the Cow bird removes the eggs of other birds in order to make room for her own. The Cuckoo is enabled to do this in the same manner in which she sometimes deposits them, by carrying in her bill, or feet. From the different construction of the bill of the Cow bird it would be impossible for it to convey an egg in this manner, yet I am convinced they sometimes either remove or destroy them, as it is very rare to discover a nest containing more than the normal number of eggs, including the Cow bird's. As tending to confirm

this opinion I will mention the case of a nest of the Red-eyed Vireo containing when discovered, two eggs, one of which was a Cow bird's; on visiting this nest three or four days later I found that the egg of the Vireo had been removed and two more Cow bird's eggs had been laid, the Vireos in the meantime had commenced incubation and were apparently as solicitous for the safety of the nest as if the eggs had been their own. However disagreeable the first discovery of the alien egg may be to some birds, it is evident this feeling is soon forgotten, and the young Cow bird never fails to receive the closest attention, no matter to what species his foster-parents may belong. When deposited in the nest of a Warbler or other small bird, it frequently happens that the egg of the Cowbird maturing early, the smaller eggs are broken by the young occupant, or, owing to his superior size and rapid development, the more delicate young are crowded out or destroyed. This does not appear to occur from an inherent desire to destroy the more feeble birds and remain sole occupant of the nest, as is the case with the European Cuckoo, but is no doubt due to superior bulk and strength alone, as, when brought up in nests of birds of more equal size the young Cowbird remains a peaceful occupant, enjoying equal privileges with the rest of the brood until all are ready to leave the nest. Having no duties to perform requiring the close association and co-operation of the sexes, it is not surprising that this species should be polygamous, and they are also more or less gregarious being usually seen in small flocks throughout the season.

W. W. DEXTER,

Montreal, June 25th, 1883.

#### NOTES ON THE RED-SHOULDERED HAWK.

The nesting of Hawks in the vicinity of Hyde Park has been much disturbed this season. More than seventy eggs were taken and I have preserved a large number of specimens of Red-tailed, Red-shouldered and Cooper's Hawks. The Red-shouldered Hawk (*Buteo lineatus*), is the most common species breeding here, arriving in March. They are evidently mated when they first appear and may be heard almost any day in the vicinity of their old nests. When close to a nest, I have on several occasions known the male to swoop down within a few feet of my head.



The approach of the bird is silent, the first notice being the whirl of its wings as it turns upward after its downward headlong flight. Then both birds will rise, screaming above the tree tops and circle around for some time. Frequently the sitting bird will silently leave the nest before it can be shot at, and in a few minutes return with its mate when both will make a great noise. Sometimes a hawk will sit very close not leaving the nest until one strikes the tree for some time with a large stick or club. I have no knowledge that hawks of any kind build entire nests of their own. All those noticed by me were old crow's nests repaired. Sparrow Hawks lay in the holes of Golden-winged Woodpeckers and other hollows in trees. A Red-shouldered Hawk will add a lot of sticks to a crow's nest filling the centre with moss, grass, leaves, bark strips and sometimes old rags and paper. In one nest I found a turf or sod with long grass on it which altogether would weigh several pounds. Sometimes, I find dead mice in the nest, and on one occasion, a live frog which the hawk had brought for its mate. The nest is bulky being usually about a foot deep and eighteen inches in diameter. Inside there is only a slight hollow just deep enough to prevent the eggs from rolling out. Three is the usual number of eggs laid; sometimes two, and a set of four is a rare find. They build wherever crows nest at all elevations. The highest nest I have taken was eighty-seven feet; the lowest twenty-two feet, the latter was in a small birch tree and I took five crow's eggs from it the year before. Climbing for nests is sometimes very dangerous, the trees being often from three to four feet in diameter, but I have succeeded in reaching every hawk's nest I have yet found. The eggs of this hawk vary very much, both in size and colour. They are generally white or creamy, dotted, blotched, or splashed with amber and reddish brown. Occasionally one of the eggs in a set is pure white. I generally find them fresh from the 11th to the 25th of April, and when robbed, they will repair another nest not far from the first one and lay again in about three weeks, but the eggs of this nest are rarely more than two, and I have not known them to lay a third time during the season. Like most other hawks, when not disturbed, they will breed year after year in the same nest. The food of this hawk consist of frogs, snakes and small quadrupeds. I have not known them to attack poultry or

birds of any kind. They are amongst the last migrants in autumn, though once in a while, one may be seen in mid-winter. These are some of my own observations. I could copy considerable about hawks out of works on ornithology to which I have access, but prefer to give my personal experience.

JOHN A. MORDEN.

Hyde Park, Ont.

#### THE "SAMSON FOX."

Four or five years ago, my dogs killed a fox near St. Luc, St. Johns' Co., Que., whose fur was short, dull colored, a dirty reddish white, and having the singy appearance you mention. (May number.) The farmer with whom I was hunting, called this a "Samson Fox," but did not know why it was so called; he supposed it to be an ordinary Red Fox "out of condition;" it had every appearance of being such.

W. H. R.

#### THE PASSENGER PIGEON.

Str.—In reply to Mr. LeMoine's query in your May number regarding the nesting of the Passenger Pigeon at Chateauguay Four Corners, State of New York, up to 1851, I beg to say that in the summer of 1867 or 1868 I was spending a few days at a place called Altona, on the Ogdensburg and Plattsburg Railway. Pigeons were flying over this place in immense numbers. Before sunrise hundreds of flocks of female birds would commence flying north to feed and continued to do so for an hour or two; by that time they would begin to fly south again; the female birds were then succeeded by the males. Towards eight or nine o'clock, a.m., the flight had entirely ceased. As it was evident these pigeons were nesting somewhere south of Altona, I decided to find the locality if possible. Having secured the services of a farmer residing in the vicinity, to act as guide, I set out early one morning, and, by following the direction in which the returning birds were flying—after a toilsome march through the woods of some five or six miles—finally came upon the nesting ground and truly my exertions were well repaid. Long before reaching the first of the nests, the noise made by the birds cooing, chattering and fluttering about, could be distinctly heard. The nests were built in a heavy hardwood bush, each tree having from

five to fifteen or more nests in it. The ground was covered with droppings, unhatched birds and broken eggs, the smell from which was most offensive. I penetrated about half a mile or more further into the woods and found no diminution in the number of nests, but rather the reverse. I was informed afterwards, but with what truth I cannot say, that this nesting ground covered ten square miles; the place is distant about one hundred miles from Chateauguay but is in the same range of woods. Wild pigeons were plentiful that year, after the hatching season, in the woods about Terrebonne and elsewhere in this vicinity.

W. H. RISTOUL.

Montreal, June 1883.

#### THE ORNITHOLOGY OF WESTERN ONTARIO.

SIR,—In the January number, Mr. McIlwraith takes exception to two statements in our list of birds of Western Ontario. On looking into these subjects we find that he is right in both instances; we can find no record in our note-books of the Ruby-crowned Wren wintering with us, even in the mildest winter, therefore that statement must be regarded as a slip due to the close association of this species with *calendula*. Our error concerning the great Northern Shrike arose from the supposition, which we find is incorrect, that the young of *cesibitorides* resembled the adult, and when we found nests in which the young had the breast of the adult  *borealis* we jumped to the conclusion that they were *borealis*. We have few winter specimens of this bird, all being either spring or fall birds, notwithstanding the fact that English sparrows are very common here in winter. It will be remembered that in speaking of the yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Mr. McIlwraith said that we would undoubtedly find it before long. Judging by this spring's experience it is probable that this has been a common bird all along, as of five small Flycatchers collected in London, three are Yellow-bellied and two Least. In his summary of the work done on the ornithology of this region he made two slight errors which he corrected in the next number, leaving the total number of species two hundred and fifty-eight to which we have now to add two species. In Toronto, Mr. Sandy's saw two specimens of the Rull,  *Machetes pygmae*, which had been killed in the bay at that place; and in the fall of 1881, Dr. Garnier shot a

Sandwich Tern, *Sterna cantiana*, on a mill-pond near Luacknow, which is now in Mr. Morden's collection. This brings the total number of species back to the original point of two hundred and sixty, and here we must be content to let it rest for the present with the hope that the ornithologists of our section will not long allow it to be stationary.

JOHN A. MORDEN,  
W. E. SAUNDERS.

London, O., June, 1883.

#### OF SHRIKES IN A STATE OF NATURE.

(Continued from page 236.)

On several occasions I have seen it in the act of screaming in this manner, when it would suddenly dart from its perch into a thicket, from which there would immediately issue the real cries of a bird on which it had seized. Dr. Bachman further states that the Loggerhead has other notes than the grating sounds Audubon attributes to it:—'During the breeding season, and indeed nearly all summer, the male ascends some cedar or other tree, and makes an effort at a song, which I cannot compare to anything nearer than the first attempts of a young Brown Thrush. He seems to labour hard, making as it were almost painful exertions. At times the notes are not unpleasant, but very irregular.' Many later observers concur in attributing moderate musical ability to the Shrike, and I consider the fact established though I have never myself heard a bird of this kind sing. But I am very sceptical respecting his asserted powers of mimicry; for the few allegations of mockery we possess seem to be traceable to one or two sources, and to demand further confirmation. But we complete the portraiture of no bird's life and character until we place the nest in the foreground of the picture, with all its natural surroundings. Our two kinds of Shrikes, indeed, breed wide apart, and in some of the little details of their domestic economy they may differ, but the general course of events is the same in either case—' *caelum non animam mutant*,' whether they be Loggerheads in South Carolina or greater Butcher-birds in the northern wilderness. Knowing our bird as we do now, we might suppose that he would make love or war with equal assurance of success, and there is no doubt of the fact that a Shrike is an impetu-

ous and an audacious wooer. The main point is, however, that in operations of this kind he has to deal with no shrinking, terrified Lark or Sparrow, glad to make any terms with the tyrant, but with a bird who proves to be his match in every particular. Set a Shrike to tame a shrew—pit a pirate against a virago—and the whole neighborhood may be congratulated when the stormy scene is over. About the time the courtship grows a little monotonous, you may look through the convenient thicket, where the saplings, bushes, and weeds are grown up close together, or along yonder hedgerow, with its lattice-work of creepers and greenbrier, to find the nesting-place of the redoubtable couple. It will not be hard to find, for the birds build low, and make a structure as bulky in proportion to their size as a Hawk's nest. It is commonly built in a bush or sapling, within arms' reach from the ground, the nest proper resting upon an extensive basement of stout twigs, rather loosely laid together and bristling in all directions. Upon such a support, the inner nest is built, of an endless variety of soft, fibrous, vegetable substances, such as grass-stems, weed-tops, bark-strips, cutkins, leaves, mosses, lichens, &c., all matted together in such quantity that the cavity within is greatly reduced by the thickness of the walls. Some nests, also, contain feathers or fur telted in with the rest of the materials. There seems to be a good deal of difference in the structure of the nest, not so much according to the species, as to the climate. The northern-built nests are usually found to be more compactly built, with a greater quantity of soft, warm material, than those of the Loggerhead in the Southern States, which are smaller, more open, and rather loosely woven than closely felted. In such a bulky and rather rude receptacle, though a very substantial one, no fewer than five or six eggs may be deposited, for a Shrike is as much in earnest in these matters as in the other affairs of life. These vary in size, of course, according to the species, the eggs of the Northern Shrike being about 1.10 by 0.80 inches, while those of the White-rumped, or Loggerhead, only measure, on an average, little if any over an inch in length by three-fourths as much in breadth. They are shaped and colored exactly alike, however, being of rounded oval form, quite blunt at the smaller end, and so profusely speckled or marbled all over with various brownish, reddish, and

purplish shades that the greenish-gray ground-color is scarcely perceptible. Should nothing go amiss, it is not long (*Audubon* says fifteen days in the case of the *lucolis*) before the nest is crowded with a clamorous and voracious brood, whose wants are an incessant tax upon the energy and devotion of the parent birds. The care of the youngsters would seem to give them all they can attend to, leaving no time for house-cleaning; for, should you come upon a family of Shrikes, well grown and soon to leave the nest, you would find things in an extremely untidy condition.

One nestful after another being thus turned loose upon the world, the tribe of Shrikes waxes. Being prolific, and having few enemies besides men, they are common birds in most portions of the country, and we readily perceive that they play an important *role* in nature's economy. I must confess that I have not drawn altogether the most flattering picture, even though I have given the doughty warriors full credit for their military operations; and I am therefore the more anxious to show what extremely useful birds they are, from the most practical standpoint possible. So far as the Shrike's relations with ourselves are concerned, the balance is entirely on one side of the ledger. We are enormously in debt to these efficient destroyers of noxious insects and injurious quadrupeds. Though they kill many a bird we should wish to live, the whole result in this regard is practically nothing to offset the check they put in the aggregate upon grasshoppers and other undesirable forms of insect life. Nay, more, the Shrike is entitled to our special thanks and most favorable consideration, for his interference in our behalf against the bird-pest of this country—the European Sparrow. In taking counsel with herself, that she might right the balance of her forces, which we so faultously interfered with when the Sparrow madness seized us, she bethought herself of the Shrikes, and in her own mysterious way she summoned these trusty allies to her aid. The Shrikes, nothing loth, went right to work, and were abating the nuisance very perceptibly, when Bostonese idiocy confronted them and cut short their righteous warfare. Men shot them down in the very acts of destroying Sparrow after Sparrow; at each murderous discharge of the gun, a noble Shrike was martyred in doing his best for the good of the community."

**BRAZILIAN**  
**COFFEE STORE**  
No. 16 Victoria Square,

Is now Open with a full Stock of pure

**BRAZILIAN COFFEES**

— AND —

**TAPIOCAS.**

**THESE ARE THE COFFEES.**

Samples of which were distributed at the  
**INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION IN SEPTEMBER.**

**COFFEES AND TAPIOCAS**

Guaranteed Absolutely Pure.

**WARNER'S**

**Safe Liver and Kidney Cure.**

A SUPPLY JUST RECEIVED.

**RICHELIEU RENAL MINERAL WATER.**

Nature's Remedy for all diseases of the  
Kidneys and Bladder. Send for pamphlet.

**HOMŒOPATHY.**—A full stock of Medicines  
and Books always on hand. Agent for  
Boericke & Tafel's well-known Medicines.  
Physicians supplied.

**Humphrey's Specifics and  
Pond's Extracts.**

Country orders promptly filled.

**J. A. HARTE, Druggist,**

**400 NOTRE DAME STREET.**

**GENTLEMEN'S SUITS.**

**HEAD QUARTERS**

— FOR —

Shooting, Fishing, Hunting and Sport-  
ing Suits of every description,  
at the lowest prices.

Suits always ready or made to order  
at the shortest notice.

We employ the best workmen; keep-  
ing the most staple and serviceable  
goods. To all our readers we commend

THE

**BOSTON CLOTHING HOUSE,**

Nos. 41 & 43 St. Joseph Street,

As the Establishment to obtain the best  
material for the ready money.

**FISH & GAME PROTECTION CLUB**

OF THE

**PROVINCE OF QUEBEC.**

OFFICERS:

F. C. Monk,.....*President.*  
J. A. Boyer,.....*Vice-President.*  
Thos. Hiam,.....*Treasurer.*  
G. H. Matthews,.....*Secretary.*

COMMITTEE:

F. J. Brady, R. H. Kilby, H. R. Ives, J. H. Stearns,  
S. Cross, W. S. Macfarlane, F. Henshaw, Alderic  
Deschamps, E. B. Goodacre, J. C. Nelson, John Nelson,  
W. Parker, Gustave Drolet, H. Rintoul, and Geo.  
McKinnon.

Notices of infractions of Laws for protection of Fish  
and Game should be sent to the Secretary.

— THE —

**Canadian Sportsman and Naturalist**

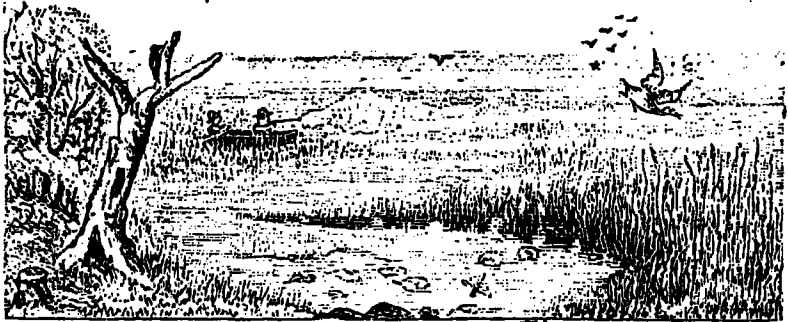
Published at Montreal.

**SUBSCRIPTION, ONE DOLLAR PER ANNUM**

*Address Communications and  
Subscriptions to*

*P. O. Box 317,*

**MONTREAL.**



# THE CANADIAN SPORTSMAN AND NATURALIST :

A Monthly Journal Published at Montreal, Canada,  
Devoted to the ROD and GUN and  
NATURAL HISTORY.

Annual Subscription, - - - - \$1.00 in advance.  
Clubs of Five, - - - - 4.00 "

**R. B. SCRIVEN**  
ORDERS SOLICITED

**NATURALIST.**  
Deer heads, Bird skins &c. For Sale.

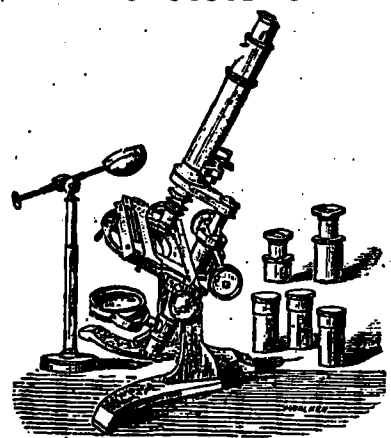
HORNS - 5 1/2 IN. BROAD.  
23 PRONGS.

HEAD IN MY POSSESSION

**GRAVENHURST, ONT. CANADA**  
HAMILTON, CA.

**SCRIVEN, ENG.**

**Messrs. J. PARKES & SON'S**  
MICROSCOPES.



School, College, Medical and other high class Achromatic Microscopes for Scientific research, &c. Glass slides, thin glass covers, tinted and injected anatomical and other Micro-preparations. Also Philosophical and Mathematical instruments generally.

**FROTHINGHAM & WORKMAN,**  
Agents, MONTREAL.  
(Price Lists on application)