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NOVEMBER, 1897.  
VOL. XI, No. 8.

# THE OTTAWA NATURALIST.

Published by the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

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# THE OTTAWA NATURALIST.

VOL. XI.

OTTAWA, NOVEMBER, 1897.

No. 8.

## NOTES ON THE BIRDS OF THE MAGDALEN ISLANDS, P.Q.\*

By Rev. C. J. YOUNG, B.A., Lansdowne, Ont.

My first impressions of the Magdalen Islands were far other than I had expected ; instead of barren rocks and a treeless waste, I found the majority of them to consist of red sandstone cliffs and dome-shaped hills ; the latter green to the very top. Grass grows in abundance, and a good deal of hay is raised. The timber is not large, the woods consisting entirely of spruce and fir, with a few birch trees, but no hard wood. In low places there is a growth of alder and willow ; and this completes the larger vegetation. On June the 15th the alders were only partially leaved out ; potatoes were just planted ; and oats an inch or two above the ground ; but after the 25th, vegetation became quite rapid, and the Islands assumed a brilliant verdure. Now for the birds,—on the 15th, near the Parsonage, I saw the black snow-bird, the blue-jay, crows, robins, and a few others. On the following morning, rising early, I was driven to the north shore of Grindstone Island, and there spent the day on the beach and among the stunted firs that abound near the shore. Among these, for the first time I met with the fox-coloured sparrow. He is a fair songster, and certainly a noteworthy bird with his fulvous plumage and skulking ways. I saw five adults and one young bird just able to fly to-day (June 16th). Though I searched for the nest a long time, I was not successful in finding it, their nests are hard to find. Another common bird was the black poll-warbler. They are everywhere and frequent the same localities as the fox-sparrow. I noticed a female with a

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\* Being a narrative of a visit, during the past season, to the Magdalen Islands, situated in the Gulf of Saint Lawrence, between 47° and 48° North Latitude, and between 61° and 62° West Longitude.—EDITOR.

rootlet in her beak, and after watching her for some time, located the nest in a small spruce about eighteen inches from the ground, but not by any means finished. During my stay on the Islands I found four of these nests, all built in spruce trees, the location varying from one to four feet from the ground. After reaching the beach I soon became aware of the presence of a small plover, and observing it through a good pair of field-glasses, which I usually carry on such expeditions, I identified it as the piping-plover. These birds were not uncommon; I saw about ten pairs, and there must have been many more; and during my stay found four nests. The first was found on the 16th by watching the birds. It was arranged much after the manner of the British ringed-plover, and contained four eggs, laid on the bare sand, but surrounded with a few pieces of broken shells, placed around the eggs, on a bank of sand and pebbles. These had been laid about a week, so it is evident the time to look for fresh eggs is from the 2nd to the 9th day of June, according to the season. Savannah sparrows were numerous here, but besides robins, a kingfisher, a warbler I could not identify, and the common tern, there were few other birds.

On the following day, June 17th, I observed three or four pine-grosbeaks amongst the spruce trees; they were apparently young birds of the year, and were quite tame. I also saw in the same locality five white-winged cross-bills in green plumage, and heard the hermit thrush, and saw a whet-owl, but found no nests to-day.

June 18th I walked to the summit of one of the highest hills on Grindstone Island—about 500 feet above sea-level,—where I obtained a fine view of the Magdalen group, of Grosse Isle and Bryon Island about 30 miles north, the view extending S.-E. as far as the Cape Breton coast. On the way I observed a warbler, probably golden-winged, the black snow-bird, and several others. Walking thence to the sea shore, while

passing through the woods of spruce and fir, I heard the hermit-thrush, and noticed two pair of golden-winged woodpeckers, whose nest-holes were in the dead birch trees, which were sparingly scattered among the spruce. Near the sea shore I came across a pair of rusty blackbirds, which were quite tame and evidently breeding; they apparently had young, but I could not find the nest. In an alder thicket not far from the shore, was a yellow warbler's nest, just completed, but without eggs, the bird being on the nest. I saw several of these birds on the Island, but they were not so plentiful as either the red-start or black-poll warbler. By the sea shore were several piping-plovers, and I found a nest well lined with broken pieces of shell, which contained four eggs, incubation advanced. In a swampy place not far off, a Savannah sparrow fluttered from my feet, and I saw the nest containing three young birds, well hidden from view. Close by, on the pond of brackish water, were several ducks, red-breasted mergansers, and a pair of black ducks with seven young, hatched about a week. Turning homeward, I met with several white-winged cross-bills, and a young pine-grosbeak, feeding on the buds of the spruce, which allowed me to approach within four or five feet.

June 19th.—To-day I walked through the spruce woods, and in a tree some eight feet high, frightened a black-poll-warbler from its nest, which contained five eggs, incubated a few days. The nest was built in a bough two feet from the ground, was quite bulky and substantial for the size of the bird, composed of a few spruce twigs, moss and grass, lined with rootlets and hair, and resembled the nest of the myrtle-warbler. On the way to the beach I saw a large nest on a fir-tree, which proved to be a fox-sparrow's, with two eggs in it. This nest was four feet from the ground, and was composed of much the same materials as the black-poll warbler's: spruce twigs, grass, moss, and lined with hair and fibres; a very firm and compact structure. Near

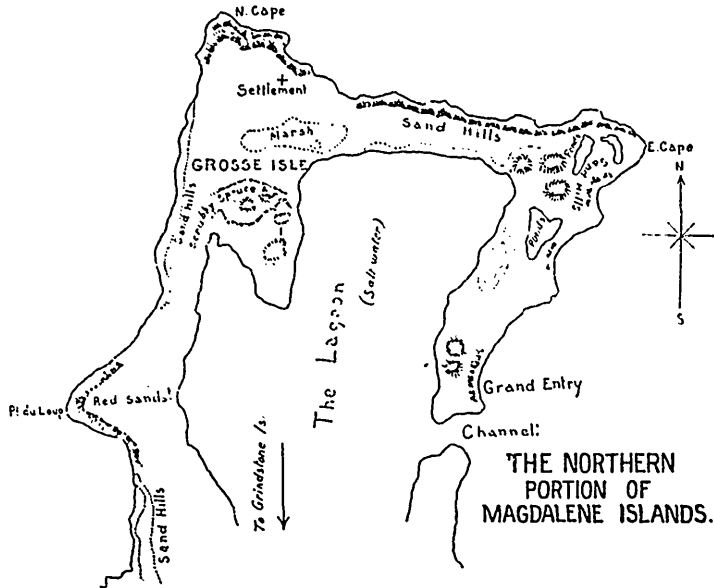
the cliff I found a second nest of this bird, built at the top of a stunted spruce, which contained four young birds just able to fly. Later, I came across four white-winged cross-bills, two of them in red plumage, which flew down to a pool of water to drink ; the other two seemed to be young birds in the green plumage ; also a warbler with a black chin and a black streak through the eye ; and a golden-crowned thrush. The warbler, I have no doubt, was the golden-winged.

June 20th.—This afternoon we drove along the beach for upwards of twenty miles to Grosse Isle. Besides a sparrow and some piping-plovers and spotted sand-pipers, I saw scarcely any birds, but heard the fox-sparrow repeatedly everywhere.

June 21st.—This was a very wet, blustering day, and it was impossible to get about. In a fisherman's house I saw eggs of the black guillemot, horned-grebe, scaup-duck, red-breasted merganser, kingfisher, least sandpiper, piping-plover, spotted sandpiper and swamp-sparrow, but spent most of the day in the house at Grosse Isle.

June 22nd.—The weather having cleared up, started to drive along the shore to the east point of Grosse Isle. The scenery is most interesting and unique. Sand hills line the coast about half to a mile across. Within and bounded by these is what is called the "lagoon," extending some thirty miles south to Grindstone Island, the shores consisting of sand and marshy flats and enclosed by sand hills, with the exception of a narrow channel at Grand Entry and House Harbour. This is a splendid place for ducks and waders. In the fall of the year they are reported to gather in thousands, along with the geese and plover, to feed in the salt marshes. In the month of June I saw a good many ducks, such as the scaup, and red-breasted merganser, with some others I did not identify. A few years ago "yellow-legs" are said to have been common ; I did not see one here, but was fortunate in finding a nest of the

"American stilt," with four somewhat incubated eggs. The bird rose from a grassy spot on the inside of the sand-hills, near the lagoon. Only the female showed herself; she was very uneasy:



and by her constant chirrup, and by flying over the place, soon convinced me she had a nest. After watching behind a sand-hill for some time I located the position of it, and going quickly to the spot where she disappeared, was rewarded for my patience by seeing her flutter along the grass as though wounded. I soon found the nest, placed among short grass in a dry part of the salt marsh; it was lined with a little withered grass. Only a few of these birds now appear to breed among the Magdalens, in all probability a few years ago they were common. Proceeding eastward we drove among the sandhills, which are interspersed with boggy pools and fresh water ponds, where quantities of the large American cranberry grow. There is also here



a thick growth of stunted spruce, some of the trees twisted into fantastic shapes by the prevailing winds. Around the pools and swamps the mosquitoes were so bad that it was impossible to lie down and watch the birds. However on one of these ponds I noticed three pairs of horned grebe, and found a nest with two fresh eggs floating in two or three feet of water. Unless the bird is clearly identified the eggs can hardly be distinguished from the pied-billed grebe. The latter is the common grebe in the St. Lawrence above Brockville, Ont., but in the Magdalens I only saw these few pairs of horned grebes, and one specimen of the red-necked. In this locality, i.e., at the east point of Grosse Isle, the sora rail is quite common. We found a nest among some "cat-tails" with young just hatching to-day and containing six eggs as well. It was built in two feet of water in a very dense growth. The other eggs met with were mergansers and common terns. With the exception of the black-poll warbler, the fox and Savannah sparrows, I saw no small birds. Wilson's snipe, however is common and breeding I saw five to-day.

The following day, June 23rd, we started early for Bryon Island, some miles north of Grosse Isle, in a whale-boat, and the wind being partly favourable, reached that island in three hours. Though small, it is a very pleasant, and for the Gulf, quite a fertile spot. In size about four miles long, varying from half a mile to a mile wide. A great part of it is covered by a dense growth of spruce and fir, some of the trees of a larger size than I saw on the other islands, but the majority gnarled and twisted to a wonderful degree. The soil is good; the cliffs consisting of a soft red sandstone, rising in places some 300 feet or more above the sea. Where the land is cleared grass grows luxuriantly and oats and potatoes are raised. The lobster fishing is very profitable. In the afternoon of to-day I started to walk round the island and investigate the fauna and flora along with

a man who was said to be an adept in rock-climbing. We found several nests of the pigeon or black guillemot, each with two eggs in, laid on the bare soil in a hole or crevice of the soft rock. Near the west end a few puffins breed, and we took one egg. On the south shore a stretch of sandhills and wet sandy beaches extends about a mile ; while a little distance inland great quantities of American cranberries grow, which though of last year's ripening were still fit for use. Among the small pools of fresh water I expected to meet with the yellow-legs, but saw nothing except some sparrows, and a few piping-plovers at the sea shore. We noticed a pair of ospreys, which doubtless had a nest in some of the larger spruce trees.

June 24th.—This morning walked with the proprietor of the island and my other friends to the lobster factory, thence to the east point, where a heavy sea was running, the spray flying over the tops of the cliffs. I saw the spotted sandpiper, another sandpiper, numbers of American scoters and a few mergansers. Fox-sparrows were scarce, there were a few pairs of black-poll warblers. We took a number of black guillemots eggs, nothing else. I learned that Leach's petrel still bred near the east point, so in the afternoon went with one of the boys who lived on the island to the locality where they were said to breed. After a short search we located a nest-hole among the roots of a scrubby spruce bush some thirty yards from the edge of the cliffs. The hole was eighteen inches deep, and found by the strong odour proceeding from the bird and pervading the whole bush. At the end of it was the nest consisting of matted grass, chips, fibres, &c. The first two I found, each contained one fresh egg ; in the third one the bird had been killed. I caught the old bird on both the nests that contained the eggs, and after carefully examining let them go. They appear to be nocturnal in their habits, and are at first dazed by the light. When taken in the hand they eject a few drops of a strong-smelling oil, whose odour lasts for a long

time. In the evening I took a nest of the Savannah sparrow behind the house, with five fresh eggs, and saw a second one close by. A few razor-bills and common guillemots are said to breed in the cliffs, but I did not see any. The only other birds of interest were a pair of loons, and a pair of young ravens.

June 26th.—I started to walk along the beach towards the east point, and on the way met with the semi-palmated plover. It is easily distinguished from the piping-plover by its darker plumage and broad black ring. Its note also is entirely different. I watched the bird for a long time, hoping to locate its nest, but failed to do so, though confident it was breeding. Later I found a spotted sandpiper's nest with four eggs, and met with two pairs of rusty blackbirds. These appeared to have young, but I searched for the nest among the stunted spruces in vain. Towards evening the cry of the Wilson's snipe was very noticeable, and there must have been several pairs breeding near the lagoon, among the fresh water ponds. The only other birds seen to-day were the fox-sparrow, the black-poll warbler, and the piping-plover, besides one hawk, which could not be identified.

On the following day we drove back to Grindstone Island along the beach, the rest of our party having returned from Bryon Island. With the exception of a raven perched on a telegraph pole, a semi-palmated plover on a salt marsh by the the lagoon, and a marsh hawk, I saw no more birds of any particular interest. The marsh-hawk and the hawk seen yesterday, were the only birds of prey with the exception of the ospreys and owl, which I noticed on the Magdalens.

June 28th.—I visited the black-poll warbler's nest to-day, which I found on the 15th. It contained four eggs slightly incubated. In the afternoon I found a robin's nest with three fresh eggs. The next day was very chilly, and with the exception of starting a pair of Wilson's snipe in the small swamp near

the Parsonage, I saw nothing of interest. The evening was cold and quite frosty.

June 30th.—This morning I walked through the woods of spruce and fir to the sea shore and met with a number of birds, but very few eggs. The Hudsonian tit is not uncommon, and in a stump about two feet high, I found a nest with seven young birds that could just fly. The nest was a very scanty affair almost on a level with the ground, and was approached from the top of the stump, not from any hole in the side. Later, I found four eggs of the Savannah sparrow, incubation advanced; the nest was in a tuft of grass in a very swampy place near the shore. On the way home I saw a number of common terns and herring gulls; by a large pond of brackish water a greater yellow-legs (the only one I saw on the Islands), and several ducks with young ones; among the scrubby spruce trees a blue-headed vireo, a pine-grosbeak, and two white-winged cross-bills.

July 1st was a very wet stormy day; the following day was not much better until the afternoon, but I started along the beach towards Amherst Island and met with several pairs of piping-plover, and two small companies of least sandpipers, one consisting of five, the other of seven. They were very tame and were feeding above high-water mark on the beach between the sea and a large pond of brackish water. I took them to be male birds by their bright dark plumage, and conjectured that the females were possibly breeding in the salt marsh near the pond, as in the case of the nest previously found I saw no sign of the male bird.

July 3rd.—This morning I caught some trout in the small brook that flows by the Parsonage, and watched several white-winged cross-bills. I also saw two common cross-bills; pine-grosbeaks, young ones, I think, one of which bathed itself very freely in the brook; and a ruby-crowned wren. Besides these birds I saw a pair of blue-jays, a white-throated sparrow (the

only one I saw on the Islands), and amongst the spruce trees found several unoccupied nests, one of which I took to be a nest of the pine grosbeak, containing pieces of light coloured, egg-shell. Robins were numerous, and I saw a nest with three eggs in, and a nest of the fox-sparrow in the dense growth, placed on the top of a stump about three feet above the ground, with two young ones covered with black down, and hatched about a day.

July 4th was a fine bright day, the excessive heat which prevailed at this time in Ontario and parts of Quebec had not yet reached the Magdalen Islands. I watched some sand-swallows near the harbour.

The following day I spent in the spruce woods, and met with several interesting birds, amongst them a fox-sparrow that had a nest with three young ones in a thick fir-tree three feet from the ground. I met with a pair of blue-jays that were very noisy, and two golden-crested wrens. Also another Hudsonian tit's nest with four young ones, whose nest was located in a dead stump, built under precisely the same conditions as the first one found. The eggs must have been fresh early in June.

July 5th brought my visit to the Magdalen Islands to a close, and I took the steamer for Pictou, N.S., having spent three weeks very pleasantly on the Islands. Warm weather reached the Islands to-day.

Certain birds were found to be quite numerous, but some of the varieties I expected to find, were not met with. It is a very difficult matter to find the nests amongst the dense growth of spruce and fir. If a person fond of ornithology spent two or three years on the Islands, he could probably make a good collection; in a few weeks not very much can be done.

Of the 61 species met with, I was only able to locate nests of 23 of them; while in all probability 43 out of the 61 regularly breed, as well as a few other warblers and one sparrow, which I did not identify. The grosbeaks breed early. On the morning

of July 5th I saw several young ones around the Parsonage. They were very tame, alighting on the wood pile and feeding on the seeds of dandelions, which they appeared to be very fond of, as were, too, the black snow-birds; they probably lay in April. The crossbills are very irregular, but undoubtedly breed, as I saw them almost every day. On the 3rd of July a small flock of pine siskins was feeding on the buds of the spruce. These also appear to breed on the Islands, and their eggs, no doubt, could be procured by careful watching. The most interesting part to visit for the birds is Grosse Isle; the Bird Rocks are well known as the abode of various species of sea fowl.

The following list of birds observed by me may be interesting to some readers; I have also added a list of those that I found breeding, as regards nomenclature, following that adopted by the A. O. U.:

1. Holboell's Grebe.	June 18th, one.	
2. Horned Grebe.	June 22nd, three pairs.	Nest; 2 eggs; fresh.
3. Loon.	June 23rd, two; 25th, one.	
4. Puffin.	June 23rd, two.	June 24th. Three nests; 3 eggs.
5. Black Guillemot.	June 23rd, 24th, etc.	Several nests 2 eggs.
6. Common Guillemot.	June 25th.	Breeding.
7. Razor-bill.	June 25th.	Breeding.
8. Kittiwake.	June 25th, several.	Breeding.
9. A. Herring Gull.	June and July, numerous.	
10. Common Tern.	June and July, abundant.	Breeding.
11. Arctic Tern.	June 15th, several.	Breeding.
12. Cormorant.	June 13th, several.	
13. Red-breasted Merganser.	June 22nd, numerous.	Nest; 6 eggs.
14. Black Duck.	June 18th, several.	Young hatched.
15. Scaup Duck (No. 147).	June 30th, several.	Breeding.
16. American Scoter.	June 24th, abundant.	
17. American Bittern.	July 2nd, a pair.	Breeding.
18. Lora.	June 23rd, several.	Nest; 6 eggs.
19. Least Sandpiper.	June 22nd, July 2nd, several.	Nest; 4 eggs.
20. Greater Yellow-legs.	July 3rd, one.	
21. Spotted Sandpiper.	June 20th, etc., numerous.	Nest; 4 eggs.
22. Wilson's Snipe.	June 22nd, etc., numerous.	Breeding.

23. Semi-palmated Plover.	June 26th and 27th, two.	Breeding.
24. Piping Plover.	June 16th, etc., numerous.	Four nests.
25. Marsh Hawk.	June 27th, one.	
26. Osprey.	June 23rd, two.	Breeding.
27. Screech Owl.	June 17th, one.	
28. Kingfisher.	June 16th, etc., several.	Breeding.
29. Golden-winged Woodpecker.	June 18th, several.	Three nests.
30. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher.	June 13th and 15th, two.	
31. Blue-jay.	June 15th, etc., several.	Breeding.
32. Raven.	June 23rd and 27th, several.	Breeds.
33. Crow.	June 15th, etc., numerous.	Breeds.
34. Rusty Blackbird.	June 18th and 26th, 3 pairs.	Breeds.
35. Pine Grosbeak.	June 17th, etc., numerous.	Breeds.
36. A. Cross-bill.	July 1st and 3rd, three.	
37. White winged Cross-bill.	June 17th, etc., numerous.	Breeds ?
38. Pine Siskin.	July 3rd and 5th, numerous.	Breeds ?
39. Savannah Sparrow.	June 16th, etc., very "	Five nests.
40. White-throated Sparrow.	July 3rd, one.	
41. Junco.	June 15th, etc., a few.	Breeding.
42. Song Sparrow.	June 21st, etc., a few.	Breeding.
43. Lincoln's Sparrow.	June 18th, etc., several.	Breeding.
44. Swamp Sparrow.	June 21st, a few.	One nest.
45. Fox Sparrow.	June 16th, etc., numerous.	Four nests.
46. Cliff Swallow.	July 1st, a few.	
47. Sand Swallow.	June 27th, etc., numerous.	Breeding.
48. Blue-headed Vireo.	June 30th, one.	
49. Golden-winged Warbler. (No. 642)	June 17th and 30th, two.	
50. Yellow Warbler.	June 18th, etc., several.	One nest.
51. Black-poll Warbler.	June 16th, etc., numerous.	Four nests.
52. Golden-crowned Thrush.	June 19th and 30th, a few.	
53. Redstart.	June 15th, etc., numerous.	Breeding.
54. Winter Wren.	June 30th, one.	
55. Hudsonian Tit.	June 15th, etc., numerous.	Two nests.
56. Golden-crowned Wren.	July 5th, two.	Breeding.
57. Ruby-crested Wren.	July 3rd, one.	
58. Hermit Thrush.	June 17th, 23rd etc., numerous.	Breeds.
59. Robin.	June 15th, etc., abundant.	Three nests.
60. Leach's Petrel.	June 24th and 25th, several.	Three nests.
61. Gannet.	June 25th, etc., numerous.	Breeding.

Besides the above birds, I saw one hawk, and several sparrows and warblers which I did not identify.

In this list most of the birds are included which were met with by Mr. William Brewster during his trip to the Gulf of St. Lawrence in 1881, (vide proceedings of the Boston Society of Natural History 1882-83. Page 364.) All these birds were clearly identified by myself and the nests where noted and examined. Of species noted by him as seen in the Magdalens, I did not meet with the black and yellow warbler; the night-hawk and the red-throated diver. On the other hand I am able to add to his list of birds mentioned in those islands, 15 species, viz., the Holboell's grebe, the horned grebe, the scaup duck, the A. bittern, the lora, Wilson's snipe, the piping plover, the screech owl, the rusty blackbird, the pine grosbeak, the A. crossbill, the golden-w-warbler, the winter wren, the Hudsonian tit and the golden crowned wren.

The Island of Anticosti is doubtless a better locality for observing the birds that frequent the islands and shores of the Gulf of St. Lawrence than the Magdalen Is., as the population on the latter is now considerable, and in a short summer tour it is sometimes difficult to get about from island to island.

I may add that the 'flora' of the Magdalen Is., is for the most part scanty and uninteresting. I made but a small list of plants, meeting with nothing of particular rarity, though some of them of course are of very local distribution, such as the trailing juniper, *Mertensia maritima*, *Hudsonia tomentosa*, *Lathyrus maritimus*, *Arenaria poploides*, *Hierochloa borealis*, (the holy grass) and a few others, mostly beach plants. On Grosse Isle I found the orchis *Habenaria viridis*, growing quite abundantly, and the 'dill' is a common and noticeable plant on Grindstone Is., growing in damp meadows.—

A trip to these islands is a very pleasant and healthful summer outing, but in the months of April and May when the cross-bills and grosbeaks should be breeding the weather is cold and foggy and at times said to be very wet.



In connection with the white winged cross-bills I may mention that during the past winter (1897) they, as well as the A. cross-bill, were very common in Ontario, and I saw three of them, one in the red and two in green plumage among the Thousand Isles, St. Lawrence River, as late as the 8th of April. These were very tame and were feeding on the ground on hemlock seeds. I also saw the pine siskin on the 1st April in a black spruce swamp. These birds breed readily in confinement, and this year some eggs were laid by them at Rockwood House, Kingston.

I trust the above notes may be of interest, and that at a future time I may have an opportunity of throwing further light on the summer 'habitat' of some of our well-known birds.

Lansdowne, Ont., September 13th, 1897.

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#### OBITUARY—EDMUND VON MOJSISOVICS.

Edmund Mosjsisovics, of Mojsvar, died at the end of August last, at Feldbach, in Styria, after a prolonged illness caused by brain disease. As an eminent scholar, geologist and palæontologist, Mosjsisovics was well known the whole scientific world over. He was born at Vienna on October 18th, 1839. In 1867 he entered the Imperial College of Geology, and in 1870 became chief geologist and mining expert. In 1891 he was elected an effective member of the Vienna Academy of Sciences, and in 1892 was appointed Vice-Director of the Imperial College.

For his excellent work and labours in the field of palæontological science he was best known. In addition to numerous contributions on various subjects dealing with fossil organic remains, Mosjsisovics published his great work entitled "*Die Cephalopoden der Hallstater Kalke*," which appeared in two volumes, accompanied by an atlas. In morphological and geological exploratory research he did a great deal of work in the mountains of Bosnia and Hercegovina. In 1896 Mosjsisovics was at his own request transferred to Gratz where he held the post of Professor of Zoology until his regretted demise.—H.M.A.

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## RECENT GEOLOGICAL PUBLICATIONS.

MATTHEW, W. D.—*A revision of the Puerco Fauna.* Bulletin of the Amer. Mus. of Nat. Hist., Vol. IX., Art. XXII., pp. 259-323, New York, Nov 15th, 1897.

A very comprehensive paper in which the author re-arranges the species already described, and reduces their number.

BLUE, ARCHIBALD.—*Sixth Report of the Bureau of Mines.*

Printed by order of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, Toronto, 1897 (Distributed November). Contains a great deal of valuable information regarding the work carried on by the Ontario Government to aid the mining industry of the Province. Section I. deals with the production of nickel, copper, gold, corundum, graphite and iron. Section II. consists of the *Third Report on the West Ontario Gold Regions*, by Prof. A. P. Coleman, of the University of Toronto, Ont. Other reports in this volume, as follows:—

Section III.—*The Story of Silver Inlet*, pp. 125-158.  
 Section IV.—*Anthraxolite or Anthracitic Carbon*, by Dr. A. P. Coleman. Section V.—*Geology of the Nipissing-Algoma line.*  
 Section VI.—Moss Litter. Section VII.—Mining Schools of Ontario. Section VIII.—Mineral collections for Mining Schools. Section IX. Some notes on the Milling of Gold Ores. There is added the "Seventh Report of the Inspector of Mines," by A. Slaght.

Two geological maps of part of Ontario, prepared by the Geological Survey of Canada, Ottawa, and placed at the disposal of the Ontario Bureau of Mines, accompany the Report.

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 INTRODUCTION TO NATURAL HISTORY.

On the evenings of February 8th, February 22nd and March 8th (Tuesdays), the President (Prof. Prince), will deliver a course of lectures, illustrated by lantern slides and specimens, the subjects being respectively:

- I. A Fish.
- II. A Bird.
- III. A four-footed Animal.

Each evening there will be a demonstration by the dissection of fresh specimens. The lectures will be adapted to the needs of those commencing natural history studies, and admission will be by special ticket, limited to members of the Naturalists' Field Club and the Y.M.C.A.

## OTTAWA FIELD-NATURALISTS' CLUB.

## PROGRAMME OF SOIRÉES, 1897-98.\*

1897. Meeting for Exhibition of Specimens and Conversation.
- Dec. 21. "The San José Scale, and some other Injurious Insects." (Illustrated.)  
By James Fletcher, LL.D., F.R.S.C., F.L.S.  
Note on a specimen of the Sea-lion in the National Museum, Ottawa,  
By Mr. James Melville Macoun.
- 1898.
- Jan. 4. Meeting for Exhibition of Specimens and Conversation.  
"On Faults and folds in the Ottawa District." By R. W. Ells,  
LL.D., F.R.S.C., &c.  
Preliminary note on Mastodon remains found in Western Ontario. By  
H. M. Ami, M.A., F.G.S.  
Report of the Geological Branch. By the Leaders.
- Jan. 18. Meeting for Exhibition of Specimens and Conversation.  
Paper on "The recent advance in our knowledge of Bacteria." By Mr.  
F. T. Shutt, M.A., F.C.S.  
"Note on a Fish-eating Plant." By Mr. Andrew Halkett.  
"The natural and artificial cross-fertilizing and hybridizing of plants,  
with notes on some important results." By Mr. W. T. Macoun.
- Jan. 25. CONVERSAZIONE AND MICROSCOPICAL SOIRÉE, at 8 p.m.  
Address by the President on "The House Sparrow and other despised  
creatures."  
A number of interesting preparations will be shown by means of Dr.  
Ami's projection microscope.  
Microscopical objects connected with various branches of Natural History  
will be exhibited by several members of the Club under their  
respective microscopes.
- Feb. 1. Meeting for Exhibition of Specimens and Conversation.  
Report of the Entomological Branch. By the Leaders.  
"Notes on the life-histories of Blister and Oil-beetles." By Mr. W. H.  
Harrington, F.R.S.C.  
Exhibition of 600 species of Japanese insects collected by Mr. W. H.  
Harrington.  
Exhibition of rare exotic and native butterflies; by Dr. Fletcher.
- Feb. 15. Meeting for Exhibition of Specimens and Conversation.  
Paper on "Local Distribution of certain Fresh water Shells." Illus-  
trated by specimens. By Mr. F. R. Latchford, B.A.  
"Notes on the Eskimo," By Dr. R. Bell, F.R.S., F.R.S.C.  
Report of the Conchological Branch. By the Leaders.
- Mar. 1. Meeting for Exhibition of Specimens and Conversation.  
Report of the Ornithological and Zoological Branches.  
Paper "On the Burrowing Habits of *Cambarus*—the Cray-fish." By  
Dr. Ami.

N.B.—At each meeting, various objects belonging to different departments of science will be exhibited, and at any meeting short papers may be read by members of the Club upon any Natural History subject.

\*Held Tuesday evenings, 9 p.m. in the Lecture Hall of the Y.M.C.A., Corner of Queen and O'Connor Streets, Ottawa.

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