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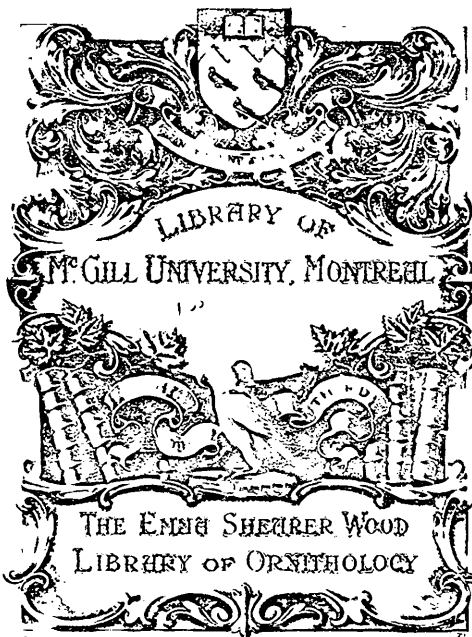
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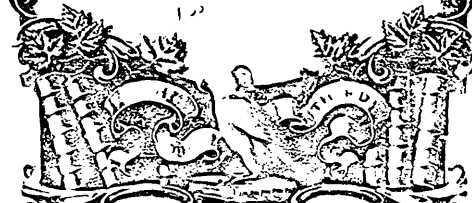
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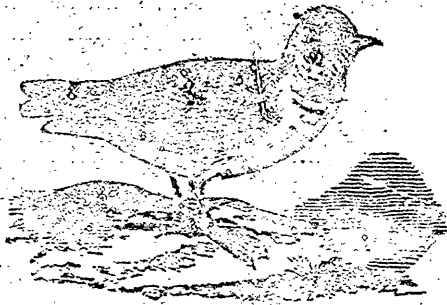
THE

Canadian Ornithologist:

A MONTHLY RECORD OF INFORMATION

RELATING TO

CANADIAN ORNITHOLOGY.



EDITED BY DR. A. M. ROSS.

TORONTO:
WILLING & WILKINSON.
1873.

THE
CANADIAN ORNITHOLOGIST:

1888
A MONTHLY RECORD

OF

FACTS, THEORIES, AND ANECDOTES:

RELATING TO

CANADIAN ORNITHOLOGY.

EDITOR: ALEXANDER M. ROSS, M.D.
TORONTO, ONTARIO.

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THE
Canadian Ornithologist.

VOL. I: TORONTO, ONTARIO, JULY, 1873. No. 1.

INTRODUCTORY.

THE CANADIAN ORNITHOLOGIST has been established with the object of making it a monthly depository of facts, theories, and anecdotes relating to our feathered friends. It shall be our endeavour to make it popular and interesting to the general reader by eschewing technicalities, and by the introduction of fresh, original, and interesting matter in each issue.

In the succeeding number it is our intention to begin a series of articles descriptive of the appearance and habits of each Canadian bird, with illustrations of many of the species.

THE STUDY OF ORNITHOLOGY.

THE study of ornithology has many attractions, and will prove an unfailing source of pleasure and gratification to all who have the leisure and inclination to pursue it. This branch of natural history has proved deeply interesting to men of the greatest intellect in all ages of the world.

In the oldest books of the Bible mention is frequently made of the eagle, raven, stork, owl, and sparrow. Noah honored the dove and raven with important missions; in Egypt the white ibis was greatly venerated; Herodotus, the ancient historian, frequently refers to the different species of birds that inhabited the various countries through which he travelled; Virgil and other ancient poets discourse sweetly of the dove and swan; Aristophanes, who flourished twenty-three hundred years ago, delighted in the sweet melodies of birds; Aristotle, who will ever be re-

garded as one of the most profound philosophers of ancient times, wrote the very first methodical treatise on zoology ; Pliny, who lived at the beginning of the first century, was a devoted student of ornithology. In more recent times we find men of genius and intellect absorbed in this beautiful study. Francis Bacon, the philosopher, Count Buffon the distinguished naturalist, and Linnæus, whose vast and soaring intellect led him to take the most exalted views of nature, were deeply interested in this attractive study. Nor should the names of Audubon, Wilson, Swainson, or Prince Charles Buonaparte, be omitted from the list of eminent men who have delighted in the study of this interesting department of natural science.

The fauna of Canada is both beautiful and varied in its features ; our birds especially are extremely interesting, and in beauty of plumage and sweetness of song equal, if they do not surpass the birds of any other country. If our young people, of both sexes, could be induced to occupy their leisure in the delightful study of Ornithology, they would most assuredly derive greater pleasure and satisfaction than in wasting their time over the trashy sentimental literature of the present day.

BIRDS' NEST ARCHITECTURE.

BIRDS are endowed with a more than common share of affection for their young, which they evince by the care and sagacity they manifest in their choice of a nesting place ; the assiduity with which they provide for their wants, and the courageous defence they make when danger threatens their helpless brood.

The architectural skill and executive capacity displayed by many birds in the construction of their nests, as well as the instinct in selecting a locality which affords protection for their young, and convenience for obtaining the requisite food, must be deeply interesting to every reflecting mind.

The style of birds' nest architecture is as various as the materials used in construction. The birds of prey, confident in their power

to protect their young, build their nests in a very loose and careless manner, and usually in exposed positions. The Golden Eagle (*Aquila canadensis*) builds its nest, on the side of a rocky cliff, of sticks and broken limbs, very loosely arranged and lined with the fur and feathers of its prey. The White-headed Eagle (*Haliaetus leucoccephalus*) constructs its nest of turf, moss, sticks, and small branches of trees, in the forks of a large dead tree, near a lake, bay, or river. The same nest is used, year after year, for incubation.

The Woodpeckers choose the trunks of decaying trees, into which they tunnel a long narrow passage with their sharp, and powerful beaks; sometimes they appropriate the burrows made by squirrels or other small animals. The nest is placed at the extremity of the tunnel, and is lined with feathers and hair. The perching birds which comprise the majority of our feathered friends, display a remarkable difference of style in constructing homes for their little ones. The Kingfisher (*Ceryle alcyon*) excavates, in a sand bank, a winding passage, from four to eight feet in length, at the end of which the nest is placed. The Bank Swallows also penetrate steep, sandy banks to the extent of three or four feet, in an upward direction to prevent the lodgment of rain. The Fly-catchers build their nests on the branches of the orchard or fruit trees: they are constructed externally of twigs, moss, and grass, deeply hollowed and lined with horse-hair and feathers. That sweet singer, the Song Thrush (*Turdus mustelinus*), usually places its nest in a very secluded part of the woods: it is made by twining together, grass, weeds, and leaves with mud, and lined with soft roots, grass, and moss. The Hermit Thrush (*Turdus pallasi*), so called from its quiet retiring habits, builds its nest in a low bush or shrub near the ground, of twigs, grass, leaves, and moss. The Catbird (*Galeoscoptes carolinensis*) places its nest in a tree or shrub, a few feet from the ground: it is made of twigs, grape-vine bark and straw ingeniously woven together, and lined with hair, moss, and feathers. The nest of the Brown Thrasher (*Harporhynchus rufus*) is usually placed in a thick cluster of trees near the ground, and is made of small twigs, roots, and moss. The

Marsh Wren (*Cistothorus palustris*) constructs its wonderful little nest among the reeds and rushes that grow in marshes or along the banks of streams ; for ingenuity of construction, durability, warmth, and convenience, the nest of this tiny bird is without a superior. The nest when completed has the form of a cocoon with the small end downwards. It is made of rushes well intertwined and mixed with mud, the upper part projecting over the entrance, which is in the side of the nest near the bottom. The inside of this curious nest is lined with soft grass and feathers. The House Wren (*Troglodytes ædon*) builds its nest in a hole which it finds in a tree or post, and fills the cavity with sticks and twigs ; a hollow is then made in the centre, which is lined with feathers and fine mosses mixed with hair ; the nest of the brilliant Scarlet Tanager (*Pyrranga rubra*) is placed on the extremity of a limb about twenty or thirty feet from the ground, and is made by interlacing the ends of twigs with weeds and bits of grape-vine bark, and lined with soft roots and leaves. The Great-crested Fly-catcher (*Myiarchus crinitus*), constructs its nest of leaves, feathers, and straws. It appears a characteristic of this bird, to have the cast-off skin of one or more snakes ingeniously woven into the other materials ; the nest is usually placed in a hollow stub or tree. The beautiful Cedar-bird (*Ampelis cedrorum*) places its nest in the fork of a tree fifteen or twenty feet from the ground ; the materials used are weeds, fine roots, grass, and leaves ; the interior is lined with horse hair and feathers. The Baltimore Oriole or Golden Robin (*Icterus baltimore*), possesses greater architectural skill in nest building than any other Canadian bird ; the nest of this bird is made in the form of a pendulous cylindrical pouch, six or eight inches in depth which is firmly attached by strips of grape-vine bark to three or four forked twigs of the elm, wild cherry, or orchard tree, and is composed of wool thread, yarn, willow down, tow, and strips of bark of the ivy, most ingeniously interwoven in the most substantial manner. They usually select a situation for their nest that will be shaded from the sun by the growing leaves of the tree. The nest is lined at the bottom with the hair of the horse, cow, and other animals. The movements of these ingenious

little architects while building their nests are extremely graceful. As the nest approaches completion, the male and female manifest increased affection for each other. The fairy-like Humming-bird constructs its tiny nest on the upper side of a limb. The materials used consist of soft down taken from the stems of the ferns. It is covered externally with lichens glued on with the saliva of the bird, and lined internally with the soft downy substances that fly from the tops of various weeds. The nest when completed will measure about one inch and a half in diameter, and is a most beautiful and skillful piece of workmanship.

The Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*.)—This merry songster places its nest in a tussock of grass in the centre of a field or meadow. It is composed of grass and soft roots, and lined with feathers.

FOOD OF CANADIAN BIRDS.

There exists a general and unfounded prejudice in agricultural communities against many of our most beautiful and useful birds, which we should like to remove if possible.

Nearly all the birds that frequent our orchards and nurseries are insectivorous, and well deserve the kind protection of the farmer and gardener. The services of our pretty and familiar friend the Robin are invaluable, and the ill feeling manifested toward this bird is quite unaccountable. The food of the Robin consists almost exclusively of grubs, earthworms, and those subterraneous caterpillars or cutworms that come out of the earth to take their food; all these and many others are devoured by the Robin, and if he should occasionally taste a cherry or a plum, surely the general interests of agriculture are of more importance than a few cherries. During the breeding season a pair of Robins will destroy myriads of noxious insects; and as the Robin raises two and sometimes three broods in a season, the service he renders the agriculturist in ridding the soil of grubs and worms that would destroy his

crops, certainly entitles this bird to more merciful treatment than it usually receives.

The elegant Cedar-bird is also another innocent victim of unfounded prejudice. This bird rarely touches fruit of any kind, unless it contains a worm or the larvæ of some noxious insect. Its food consists principally of caterpillars, beetles, and the canker worms that infest the fruit trees.

The brilliant Oriole or Golden Robin, the gaudy Scarlet Tanager or Redbird, love to build their nests and raise their young in the trees of the orchard, because there they find their food, which consists almost exclusively of caterpillars and the larvæ of insects. Our beautiful singers, the Thrushes, destroy nearly all kinds of grubs, caterpillars, and worms, that live upon the greensward or cultivated soil. The Catbird, that charms the ear with its rich and varied notes, seldom ever tastes fruit, but feeds upon insects of various kinds. The beautiful Warblers pursue their insect-destroying labours from early morn till night; the active Flycatchers capture the winged insects; the Blue Bird, that loves to dwell near the haunts of man, feeds upon spiders and caterpillars; the Woodpeckers, Nuthatches, Titmice, Wrens, and Creepers, feed upon the larvæ of insects deposited in the bark of trees; the Swallows and Martins feed entirely upon winged insects, the Yellow-bird and the Sparrows feed upon small insects and the seeds of grass and various weeds; the food of the Meadow Lark and the cheerful Bobolink consists of the larvæ of various insects, as well as beetles, grasshoppers, cutworms, and crickets, of which they destroy immense numbers.

WINTER VISITORS.

THE past winter in Canada was remarkable in many respects, but in none more so, than in the unusual variety of rare northern birds which visited this section of Canada. During the month of January (1873), which was remarkable for the extreme cold and stormy weather which occurred, we observed small flocks

of Red Crossbills (*Curvirostra americana*); White-winged Crossbills, males, (*Curvirostra leucoptera*); Bohemian Chatterers males and females, (*Ampelis garrulus*); Pine Grosbeaks, female: only, (*Pinicola canadensis*); Pine Finches, males and females (*Chrysomitris pinus*); Lapland Longspur, males only, (*Plectrophanus lapponicus*.)

Our regular winter visitors also appeared in greater numbers than usual. Large flocks of Snow Buntings, (*Plectrophanus nivalis*), Lesse: Redpolls, (*Ægiothis linariae*), Black-throated Buntings, (*Euspiza americana*), Snowbirds, (*Funco Hyemalis*), and Shore Larks, (*Eremophila cornuta*.)

The appearance of so many rare northern birds in this section was doubtless owing to the extreme cold weather in northern Canada during last winter.

PROTECTION FOR INSECTIVOROUS AND OTHER BIRDS.

“An Act for the protection in Ontario of Insectivorous and other Birds beneficial to Agriculture” was passed at the last session of the Ontario Legislature, and is now in force in this Province. Notwithstanding one of the best provisions of the bill was struck out by the House, it will, if vigorously enforced, do much to prevent the wanton and unnecessary destruction of our birds. It enacts as follows:—

“It shall not be lawful to shoot, destroy, wound, or injure, or to attempt to shoot, destroy, kill, wound, or injure any bird whatsoever, save and except eagles, falcons, hawks, owls, wild pigeons, king-fishers, jays, crows, and ravens, and the birds especially mentioned in an Act passed in the thirty-fifth year of Her Majesty's reign, chapter thirty-eight, and intitled “An Act to consolidate and amend the laws for the protection of game and fur-bearing animals of Ontario.”

“It shall not be lawful to take, capture, buy, sell, expose for sale, or have in possession any bird whatsoever, save the kinds hereinbefore or hereinafter excepted, or to set, wholly or in part,

any net, trap, springs, snare, cage, or other machine or engine, by which any bird whatsoever, save and except eagles, falcons, hawks, owls, wild pigeons, king-fishers, jays, crows, and ravens, might be killed and captured ; any net, trap, spring, snare, cage, or other machine or engine, set either wholly or in part for the purpose of either capturing or killing any bird or birds, save and except eagles, falcons, hawks, owls, wild pigeons, king-fishers, crows, jays, and ravens, may be destroyed by any person, without such person incurring any liability therefor.

“It shall not be lawful to take, injure, destroy, or have in possession any nest, young, or egg of any bird whatsoever, except of eagles, falcons, hawks, owls, wild pigeons, king-fishers, jays, crows, and ravens.

Any person may seize, on view, any bird unlawfully possessed, and carry the same before any Justice of the Peace, to be by him confiscated, and, if alive, to be liberated ; and it shall be the duty of all market clerks, and police officers, or constables, on the spot, to seize and confiscate, and, if alive, to liberate such birds : Provided always, that this Act shall not apply to any imported cage birds or other domesticated bird or birds generally known as cage birds, or to any bird or birds commonly known as poultry.

“The violation of any of the provisions of this Act shall subject the offender to the payment of not less than one dollar, and not more than twenty dollars with costs, on summary conviction, on information or complaint before one or more Justices of the Peace ; and the whole of such fine shall be paid to the prosecutor, unless the convicting justice or justices shall have reason to believe that the prosecutor is in collusion with and for the purpose of benefiting the accused, in which case the said justice or justices may order the disposal of the fine as in ordinary cases ; and in default of payment of such fine and costs, the offender shall be imprisoned, in the nearest common gaol, for a period not less than two and not more than twenty days, at the discretion of such Justice or Justices of the Peace.”

MIGRATIONS OF OUR BIRDS.

It is generally known that nearly all our summer birds leave in the fall, on the approach of winter, to seek warmer regions, where their natural food can be obtained, and where the climate is more genial than our own.

But, it is a fact not generally known that, year after year, our birds return to the same locality, and the young to the place of their nativity. Such, however, is the fact, which careful observation and repeated experiment has proved.

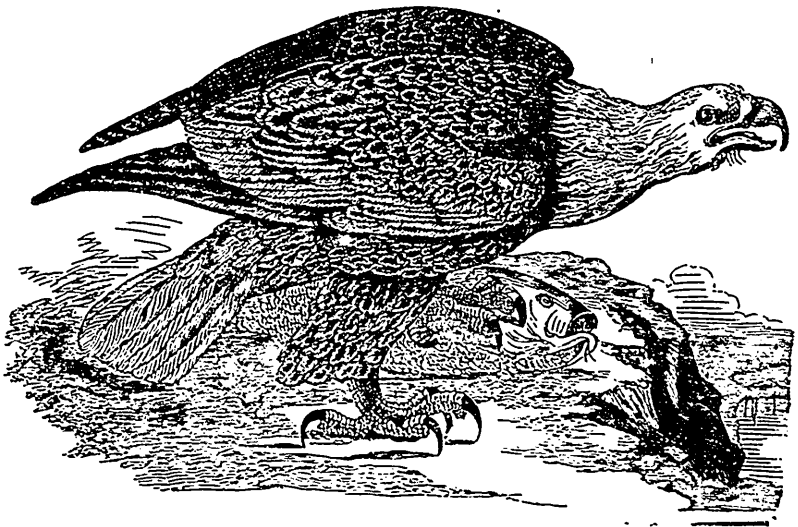
On the approach of winter each different species collect together in flocks, and, for a week or more, keep together augmenting their number by the addition of stragglers. When the time for departure has come, the flocks ascend until they reach a southern air-current and move south, preceded and flanked by the old birds, who keep up a continual chirping or calling from all sides of the flock for the purpose, no doubt, of protection, and to inspire the younger birds with confidence.

CLASSIFICATION OF CANADIAN BIRDS.

ORNITHOLOGISTS have already classified seven hundred and eight different species of birds as belonging to North America, of which over three hundred are regular Canadian summer visitors, a few species only remaining with us during the winter.

Our birds may properly be divided into six Orders, as follows :
Order I.—The Birds of Prey, includes the Eagles, Falcons, Hawks, Buzzards, and Owls. Order II.—The Climbing Birds, includes the Cuckoos, Woodpeckers, Nuthatches, and Creepers. Order III.—Perching Birds. This Order embraces the greatest number of species, and includes the Robins, Sparrows, Thrushes,

Orioles, Fly-catchers, Warblers, Swallows, Wrens, Crows, Jays, etc., etc. Order IV.—Scratchers, includes the Doves, Partridges, Grouse, and Turkeys. Order V.—Waders, embraces the Snipe, Sandpipers, Plovers, Cranes, Herons, Bitterns, and Coots. Order VI.—Swimmers, includes the Geese, Ducks, Swans, Mergansers, and all swimmers or web-footed birds.



THE WHITE HEADED EAGLE.

ORDER I.—BIRDS OF PREY.

ARE mostly birds of large size, having strong hooked bills, sharp claws, great extent of wing, and powerful muscles; the females are generally larger than the males. Birds of this Order live in pairs, such as Eagles, Hawks, Buzzards, and Owls.

The Hawks.—The birds of this family are characterized by a robust and strong form; short bill, curved downward; round nostrils; wings long, pointed, adapted for rapid flight. The claws are strong, large, and very sharp. Plumage, generally mottled-grey, black, brown, and white.

The Owls.—The Owls have a large head, short and heavy form, and some have tufts of feathers that somewhat resembles the ears of quadrupeds. Their flight is slow, but strong, and without noise; their eyes very large; bill, powerful and curved; legs, feathered to the toes. Plumage, soft and mottled.



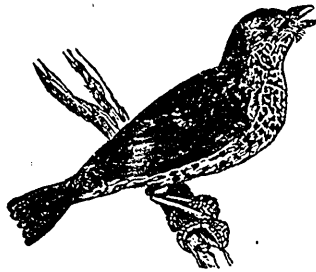
THE GOLDEN WINGED WOODPECKER.

ORDER II.—CLIMBERS.

BIRDS of this Order have their toes in pairs—two in front and two behind—which especially facilitate climbing. The *Cuculidae*, or Cuckoo Family, and the *Picidae*, or Woodpecker Family, belong to this Order.

The Cuckoos.—The Cuckoos are characterized by a long clinical and slender bill; tail, has ten feathers of graduated length; wings, long; plumage, olive-green above, white beneath; toes, two in front, and two behind.

The Woodpeckers.—The Woodpeckers have a strong, straight bill; tongue, long; tail feathers, pointed and shafted; toes, two in front, and two behind; wings, short and rounded.

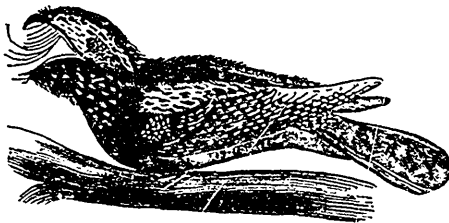


THE SONG SPARROW.

ORDER III.—PERCHERS.

THIS Order embraces a greater number of species than any other, and comprehends all those birds which live habitually among trees, with the exception of birds of prey and climbing birds. All true perching birds have three toes before, and one behind.

The Swallows.—The Swallows have a short, triangular bill; large mouth; wings, long; tail, more or less forked; legs, short and delicate; toes, three in front, and one behind; plumage, bright metallic blue above, white or reddish beneath.



THE WHIP-POOR-WILL.

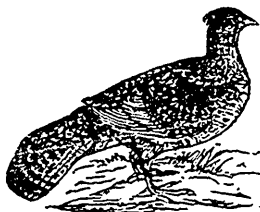
The Goatsuckers.—The three members of this species that visit Canada, are characterized by a very short triangular bill; gape, large; the inner toe with three joints, the others with four; plumage, soft, lax, and mottled like the Owls.

The Flycatchers.—The birds of this species are noted for their activity and courage. The bill is sharp, strong, broad, and slightly bent down and notched. Wings and tail, about the same length. Three toes in front, and one behind. Plumage, shaded black and gray.

The Thrushes.—The Thrushes have the wings and tail rounded and rather short, with one exception, that of the Brown Thrush, which has a very long tail. The plumage is brown above, and white-spotted with black and brown beneath.

The Warblers.—The birds of this family are quite numerous, small in size, with sharp and short bills; plumage, variable; legs, long and slender, hind toe scorter than the middle one; claws, curved and sharp.

The Finches.—All the birds of this species are characterized by short and stout bills; wings, long and pointed; legs, black and slensr; toes, three before and one behind; plumage, very variable.



THE COMMON PARTRIDGE.

ORDER IV.—SCRATCHERS.

COMPRISES birds which live mainly upon the ground, and feed principally upon berries, buds, tender leaves, and grain; such as Doves, Grouse, Partridges, and Turkeys.

The Grouse.—The legs are densely feathered; toes, naked; tail, has sixteen feathers, sometimes eighteen; plumage, black, brown, and mottled.



THE GREAT BLUE HERON.

ORDER V.—WADERS.

BIRDS of this Order live near the water, and comprise the Herons, Cranes, Bitterns, Plovers, Snipes, Phalaropes, Sandpipers, and Rails.

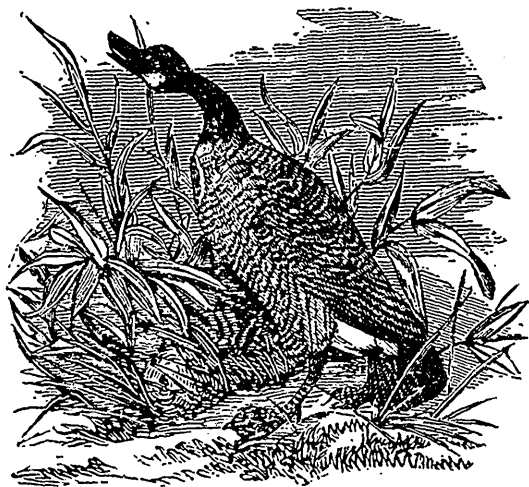
The Herons.—The birds of this species have very long and strong bills; legs, very long and slender; middle toe, connected with the outer by a basal web; head, crested; throat, tufted with long feathers.

The Plovers.—The Plovers live on the shore; bodies, round; bills, slender, of variable length; feathers, compact; wings, long and sharp; tail, stiff, short, and broad; legs, slender and delicate, and correspond with the bill and proportions; plumage, brownish-black, with circular spots.

The Snipes.—The Snipes have full and round bodies, large head and eyes, short and rounded wings, and short legs. The tail has twelve feathers.

The Sub-Family *Tringinae*, the Sandpipers, have rather long bills. The wings are long and pointed.

The Sub-Family *Totantinae*, the Stilts, have the bill as long as the head, or longer; the toes are generally connected by a basal membrane; wings, long; legs, long and strong; tail, slightly rounded.



THE CANADA WILD GOOSE.

ORDER VI.—SWIMMERS.

BIRDS of this Order are especially fitted for aquatic life, and comprise the Ducks, Geese, Swans, Cormorants, Gulls, Grebes, Loons, and Terns; Petrels, Auks, Sheldrakes, Gannets, Guillemots, and Puffins.

The Swimmers.—Webfooted Birds.—The Sub-Family *Cygninae*, the Swans, have a very long neck and bill; the nostrils are situated in the middle of the bill; plumage, white; bill and legs, black; feet, webbed.

The Sub-Family *Anserinae*, the Geese, have a large red or orange-colored bill; feet, webbed.

The Sub-Family *Anatinae*, the River Ducks, are characterized by a long and broad bill, and somewhat pointed tail.

The Sub-Family *Fuliginæ*, the Sea Ducks, differ from the preceding in having much larger feet, and a membranous plate attached to the hind toe; the legs also, are set further back.

The Sub-Family *Merganseæ* have a very slender and narrow bill, terminated by a curved nail; edges, serrated; tail has eighteen feathers; head, crested.

The Gulls.—Bill, short and straight; body, full; wings, long; neck, short; feet, webbed; tail, generally even; hind toes, small and elevated.

The Terns.—The Terns have slender, straight, and long bills, curved and pointed; tail, forked; feet, webbed; wings, very long and pointed.

The Divers.—Have long, pointed, and compressed bills; toes, long and webbed; legs, situated far behind; tail, short; wings, short.

The Sub-Family *Podicipinæ*, the Grebes, have short wings; sides of the head, tufted; plumage, soft; bill, long and compressed; tail, a mere tuft of soft feathers.

The Auks.—The Auks are characterized by a short, broad, and strong body; wings, short; tail, short; bill, about as long as the head, and hooked at the base; legs and feet, stout and strong; toes, webbed.

LOCAL OBSERVATIONS.

DUCKS.—Twenty-six different species of ducks are known to visit the vicinity of Toronto during the spring and fall migrations.

SAND-HILL CRANES.—Two fine specimens of this rare species were shot in the marsh near this city last fall.

DOUBLE CRESTED CORMORANT.—A beautiful bird of this species was shot near Toronto a few months since.

BAIRD'S HAWK.—A gentleman of this city recently shot a hawk of this variety a few miles from Toronto.

WHOOPIING CRANE.—A fine bird of this species (stuffed) is exhibited in the window of a shop on King Street, Toronto.

Selections from Current Literature.

EIDER DUCKS.

The greatest favourites and the most valuable of all the feathered tribes in Iceland, are the eider ducks. Their down is the lightest and softest of animal coverings, probably the worst conductor of heat, and therefore the warmest clothing that is known. The eider duck (young birds of this species have occasionally been shot in Toronto bay,) is a large and fine looking bird. The male is over two feet in length, and weighs six or seven pounds. His back, breast, and neck are white, inclining to a pale buff; the tail and the top of the head, black. On the water he is as graceful as a swan. The female is much smaller than the male, and differently mottled with both white and black. The tips of the wings are white, the tail a brownish-black. But a poor idea is given, however, of the looks of these birds by an enumeration of their colours. The down is a sort of mouse colour. These singular birds have both the character of wild and domesticated fowls. In the winter they are so wild that it is difficult to come near them; but in the breeding season—the month of June—they are tamer than barn door fowls. On the islands all round Iceland, and many parts of the main shore, they cover the land with their nests. When left to themselves, the brood of the eider duck does not exceed four; but remove the eggs daily, and she will continue to lay for weeks.—*Rambles in Iceland.*

FOSSIL BIRDS.—Professor Marsh, of Yale College, records the discovery of a large fossil bird, at least six feet in length, in the upper cretaceous of Western Kansas.

There is a special importance attaching to the birds of the cretaceous formation in this region, as some of them have done much to fill up the gap in the series between reptiles and birds. One of these birds, a species of *Ichthyornis*, had well-developed teeth in both jaws, and bi-concave vertebræ—the latter being a characteristic of fishes and of a few extinct reptiles. The bird was about as large as a pigeon. Another interesting bird of that age discovered by Prof. Marsh, was a species of *Hesperornis*, a gigantic diver, related to the modern loon, but about six feet in height. Some smaller birds from this formation were allied to modern cormorants.

CAN A BIRD REASON?

Of the seven kinds of the swallow family inhabiting North America, all but one are known to have undergone a more or less complete and radical change of life, seeking the protection and companionship of man, and making great and important changes in their nesting, both as to location and architectural structure.

These evidences of reasoning power in birds are by no means confined to the swallow family. We see its manifestations in the change of life and habits of even the proverbially not over-intelligent gull, which at Grand Manan, taught by generations of persecutions, and robbed of its eggs with ruthless greed by man, no longer rests on the treacherous shore, but with its clumsy webbed feet builds itself a nest in high and inaccessible forest trees. We see it, too, in that intense caution, miscalled cunning, with which that poor persecuted benefactor of the farmer, the crow, is compelled to guard his hunted life. This caution has been taught him by the severe lessons of experience, and by his own powers of reason. It is foreign to the crow's

nature. In Nova Scotia, where an absurd prejudice against the crow has no existence, we may still find this same species as familiar as our common robin. And in the West, in Iowa, for instance, where the farmers appreciate their value, and welcome them as friends, there also we find the natural, untaught, confiding crow.—*Brewer's Notes.*

(Advertisement.)

FOR SALE.

A RARE AND VALUABLE COLLECTION OF NORTH American Birds, consisting of 300 different species, in their best plumage. The Collection was made in Canada, and the Birds stuffed and "set up" by one of the best English Taxidermists. It is in excellent order, and would be a most valuable acquisition to a Museum of Natural History attached to a University, College, or other Educational establishment.

The following Birds form a part of the collection :—

Duck Hawk, Pigeon Hawk, Orange-breasted Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, Goshawk, Cooper's Hawk, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Red-tail Hawk, Osprey (or Fish Hawk), Brown Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Black Hawk, Marsh Hawk, Golden Eagle (or Ring-tailed Eagle), Bald Eagle, Barn Owl, Great Horned Owl, Mottled Owl, Long-Eared Owl, Short-Eared Owl, Great Gray Owl, Barred Owl, Sparrow Owl, Kirtland's Owl, Saw-whet Owl, Burrowing Owl, Pigmy Owl, Snowy Owl, Hawk Owl, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Black-billed Cuckoo, Hairy Woodpecker, Harris's Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Red-cockaded Woodpecker, Three-toed Woodpecker, Banded three-toed Woodpecker, Striped three-toed Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Woodpecker, Red-throated Woodpecker, Red-headed Woodpecker, Yellow-shafted Flicker, Humming Bird, White-throated Swift, Black Swift, Chimney Swallow, Chuck-will's-widow, Whip-poor-will, Night Hawk, Belted King-fisher, King Bird (or Beo Bird), Gray King Bird, Great Crested Flycatcher, Pewee, Wood Pewee, Little Flycatcher, Least Flycatcher, Green-crested Flycatcher, Wood Thrush, Hermit Thrush, Silent Thrush, Olive-backed Thrush, Robin, Varied Thrush, Blue Bird, Western Blue Bird, Ruby-crowned Wren, Golden-crested Wren, Cuvier's Golden Crest, Black and White Creeper, Long-billed Creeper, Blue Yellow-back, Maryland Yellow-throat, Macgillivray's Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, Worm-eating Warbler, Blue-winged Yellow Warbler, Golden-winged Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, Golden-crowned Thrush, Black-throated Green Warbler, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Pine-creeping Warbler, Blue Mountain Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Blue Warbler, Black

Poll Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Black and Yellow Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Yellow Red Poll, Yellow-throated Warbler, Small-headed Flycatcher, Green Black-cap Flycatcher, Canada Flycatcher, Redstart, Scarlet Tanager, Barn Swallow, Cliff Swallow, White-bellied Swallow, Violet Green Swallow, Bank Swallow, Purple Martin, Wax Wing, Cedar Bird, Great Northern Shrike, Loggerhead Shrike, White-rumped Shrike, Red-eyed Flycatcher, Yellow-green Vireo, Warbling Flycatcher, Black-headed Flycatcher, White-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated Flycatcher, Cat Bird, Brown Thrush, Long-tailed Thrush, Long-billed Marsh Wren, Short-billed Marsh Wren, House Wren, Parkman's Wren, Winter Wren, American Creeper, White-bellied Nuthatch, Red-bellied Nuthatch, Long-tailed Chickadee, Black-cap Titmouse, Pine Grosbeak, Purple Finch, Yellow Bird, Pine Finch, White-winged Crossbill, Lesser Red Poll, Mealy Red Poll, Snow Bunting, Lapland Longspur, Savannah Sparrow, Grass Finch, White-crowned Sparrow, Golden crowned Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Black Snow Bird, Black-throated Sparrow, Tree Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, Tex-colored Sparrow, Lark Bunting, Black-Throated Bunting, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bird, Red Bird, Ground Robin (or Towhee), Bobolink (or Reed Bird), Cow Bird, Red-winged Blackbird, Red-shouldered Blackbird, Red and White-shouldered Blackbird, Meadow Lark, Orchard Oriole, Baltimore Oriole, Long-tailed Grackle, Boat-tailed Grackle, Crow Blackbird, American Raven, Common Crow, Blue Jay, Canada Jay, Wild Pigeon, Spruce Partridge, Sharp-tailed Grouse, Prairie Hen, Ruffed Grouse, White Ptarmigan, Little Crane, White Heron, Great Blue Heron, Least Bittern, Bittern (or Stake Driver), Green Heron, Night Heron, Golden Plover, Kildeer, Wilson's Plover, Semipalmated Plover, Piping Plover, Black-bellied Plover, Turnstone, Black Turnstone, Wilson's Phalarope, Northern Phalarope, Greater Longbeak, Purple Sandpiper, Curlew Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Sanderling, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Willet, Yellow Legs, Spotted Sandpiper, Field Plover, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Marbled Godwit, Hudsonian Godwit, Long-billed Curlew, Hudsonian Curlew, Esquimaux Curlew, Marsh Hen, Clapper Rail, Virginia Rail, Common Rail, Little Black Rail, Coot, Snow Goose, Canada Goose, Mallard, Black Duck, Sprig-tail (or Pin-tail), Green-winged Teal, Blue-winged Teal, Shoveller Gadwall, Widgeon, Summer Duck, Little Black-head, Ring-necked Duck, Red-head, Canvas Back, Golden Eye, Harlequin Duck, Velvet Duck, Surf Duck, Long-billed Scoter, Scoter, Eider Duck, King Eider, Ruddy Duck, Sheldrake, Red-breasted Merganser, Hooded Merganser, Common Cormorant, Leach's Petrel, Black Stormy Petrel, Mother Carey's Chicken, Glaucous-winged Gull, White-winged Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Herring Gull, Bonaparte's Gull, Little Gull, Kittiwake Gull, Ivory Gull, Wedge-tailed Gull, Swallow-tailed Gull, Fork-tailed Gull, Marsh Tern, Caspian Tern, Sooty Tern, Arctic Tern, Black Skimmer, Loon, Diver, Red-throated Diver, Crested Grebe, Razor-billed Auk, Arctic Puffin, Least Auk, Black Guillemot.

ALSO—A collection of two hundred North American Birds' Eggs (well preserved and identified), and several hundred specimens of Butterflies and Moths.

For information as to terms, &c., address,

The Editor of the "ORNITHOLOGIST," Toronto, Ontario.