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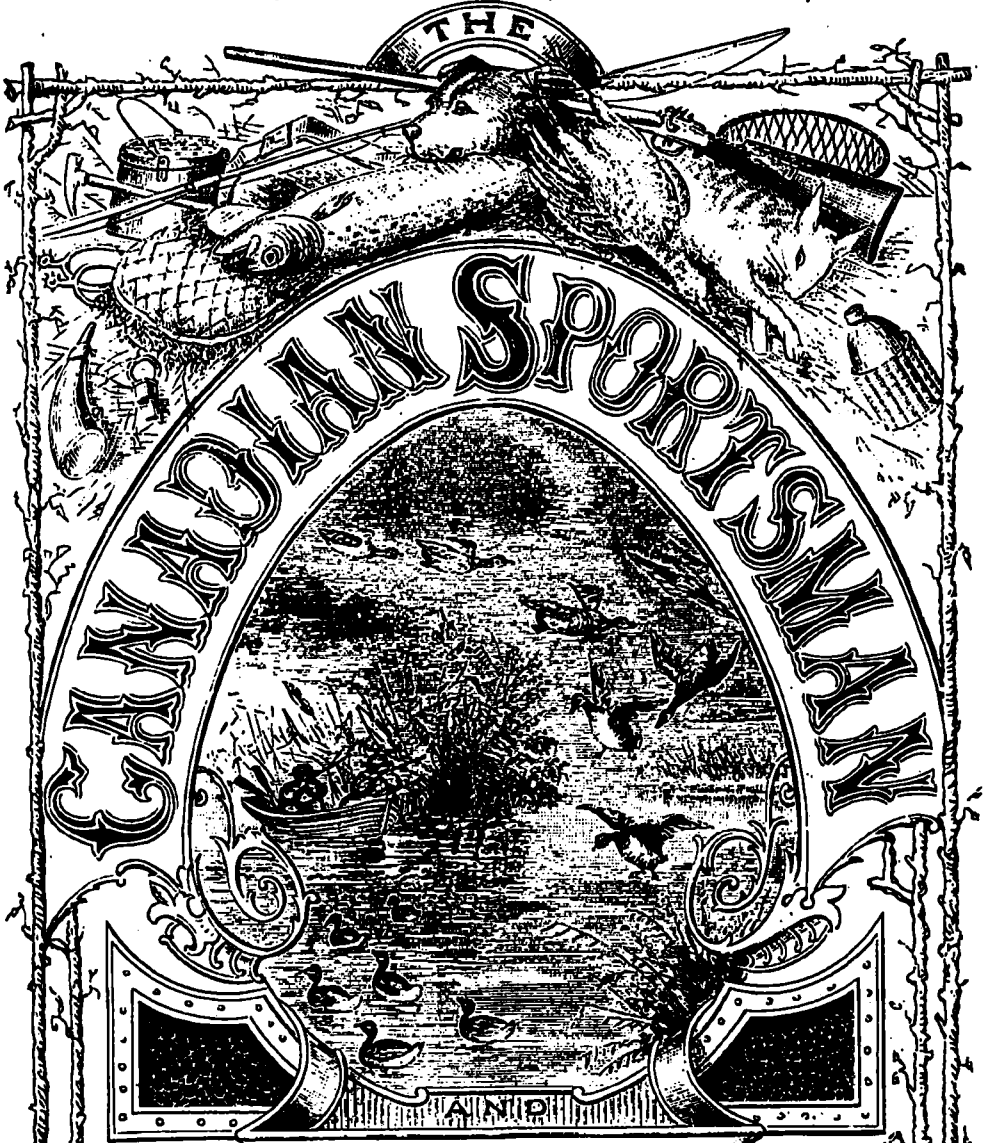
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THE

# CANADIAN SPORTS MEN



AND

# NATURALIST

A MONTHLY JOURNAL



VOL. II.  
No. 5.  
1882.

A. F. DUNLAP DEL.

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# THE CANADIAN SPORTSMAN AND NATURALIST.

No. 5.

MONTREAL, MAY, 1882.

VOL. II.

WILLIAM COUPER, Editor.

## THE GAME LAWS OF THE PROVINCE OF QUEBEC.

### A NATURAL HISTORY REVIEW.

It is notorious that for many years past Game Laws have been in force in the Province of Quebec; that these laws were repeatedly amended and even at this instant they are imperfect; that on all former occasions the alterations sought for were brought forward by parties who knew very little of the Natural History of the animals which are said to occur in the Province. In the Bill now before the Legislature of Quebec there is the heading *Moose, Deer, Elk, Caribou*. Now, to make the matter plain, the word DEER includes all which are hunted for venison. We have in this Province, four species of deer, viz.: the Elk, commonly called and known as Moose; two of Caribou and the Virginian Deer. These quadrupeds are invariably confined to certain localities, each having ranges of various extent. For instance the Virginian Deer has not a wide range in Quebec, and it may be now accidental in places where it was formerly abundant. The cutting down of forests accounts, in a great measure, for its disappearance. The Elk or Moose is also similarly situated, because its chief food consists of moosewood and aquatic plants; it is also extremely fond of mountainous regions, especially where there are lakes, which are not frequently visited by man. The deer known as Caribou of which we have two species, are generally confined to high latitudes, and it is only during winter that man can approach them. To make the Game Laws perfect, these animals should be indicated in the Act, by placing the scientific after the local name of each species—as Elk or Moose, (*Cervus alces*); Woodland Caribou, (*Rangifer tarandus*); Baren-ground

Caribou, (*Rangifer Greenlandicus*), and the Virginian Deer, (*Cervus Virginianus*) This would make the law definite with regard to these animals. Confusion will certainly arise from this nomenclature when not framed in a manner to be clearly understood by the sporting people of the Province. Greatly as are the inhabitants of the United States ahead of us in some matters of this nature, they will call animals by wrong names, for instance the large deer or Wapiti (*Cervus Canadensis*) of the Rocky Mountains, is vulgarly named Elk, while the latter is the animal we call Moose in Canada, and which is scarce near the Rockies. In the French and English copies of the Act, the word Pécane occurs. Now, surely, if the framer of this Bill went to any trouble, he would have discovered that this is the animal commonly called Fisher by English people, *Musclea Canadensis* of naturalists, and not the WILD CAT (*Chat sauvage*). Well, what animal have we here? We are told that it is the Raccoon (of uncommon occurrence in this Province). There is another common animal called Lynx (*L. Canadensis*) which is also called *wild cat* by country people, and although there is no true wild cat found in the Province of Quebec, it occurs in Ontario. As for Muskrat, there is no greater nuisance among the quadrupeds of this country. It burrows under the banks of rivers, making numerous holes whereby the fertile lands of the farmer (especially if a stream is overflowed in Spring), are destroyed; however, if all parties are satisfied with the protection of this animal, we are.

Regarding the feathered game, no bird called Partridge exists in this latitude. There are five species of Grouse occurring in the Province—i. e. the Ruffed Grouse (*Bonasa umbellus*), Sharp-tailed Grouse (*Tetrao pedicellatus*), rare in the valley of Lake St. John, Upper Saguenay; Spruce Grouse (*T. Cana-*

*densis*), two species of Ptarmigan (*Lagopus Americanus*), and (*Lagopus rupestris*), both winter visitors; the former common, the latter rare. Wild Swan should not be included in the Bill as all the North American species are *rara aris* in this Province. The Canada Goose (*Bernicla Canadensis*) is a wild goose; the Widgeon (*Mareca penelope*)—a rare visitor in Quebec—and Teal (of which there are two species) deserve protection. The Black Duck (*Anas obscura*) is certainly the duck of the sportsman, because it is the most game and prolific of all the wild ducks. The Mallard, Canvas-back Duck and Pintail are not specially protected although they are sometimes abundant on Quebec waters. But as this Bill protects all the wild ducks (fish and vegetable eaters) we will not further pause to point out mistakes in regard to what constitutes aquatic game. There is a vast difference between birds (ducks) that are good food and those that are not, the latter are allowed by law to live and destroy the fry of salmon and other valuable food fishes. Why this portion of the Bill is not properly put together, we cannot understand. The laws of Ontario regarding wild ducks, merely protect those that are thoroughly game, such as Mallard, Black Duck, Wood or Summer Duck, and Gray Duck, the latter, so far, is not identified or determined. All other species are classed as sea ducks, although not game, they are protected between 1st May and 15th of August. We are as anxious as the Provincial Government to protect insectivorous birds, and would be greatly pleased to see this portion of the Bill perfect. There are birds in this section of curious nomenclature—"Grives," we know them not. "Cow buntings,"—thank Providence, there is only one species in Canada; it is a parasite: a robber among its kind, and if the Hon. framer of the Bill, knew what it was, he would not have classed it as he has. "Bobolinks," the Rice Bird; what is extraordinary is that in the Hon. Mr. Flynn's

Bill, the scientific name given to this bird is not correct, (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*), of dear old Swainson is now converted into *Dolychonyx orizivorus* by a Quebec legislator, and to add agony farther, the Starling (commonly known as the Marsh Blackbird), our two species of Grackle and the two species of Grosbeak (one a winter, the other a summer visitor), are classed as insect eating birds. We can prove that certain species of FALCONIDE or Hawks are insectivorous; that Crows, Waxwings and Shrikes are insects destroyers, and furthermore that we have two species of Shrike in the neighbourhood of Montreal—the Loggerhead (common), and the Great Northern Shrike (rare), both of which destroy insects during certain portions of their residence with us. By the way the latter is another species to which the scientific name is given wrongly. Compare text of the Bill. (C.)

#### THE NEW GAME LAWS FOR THE PROVINCE OF QUEBEC.

A bill to amend and consolidate the Game Laws is now before the Quebec Legislature. The principal changes are as follows:—

Moose, Caribou and Virginian Deer.—Present close season, 1st February to 1st September; proposed close season, 1st January to 1st September.

Wild Ducks and Geese.—Present close season, 1st May to 1st September, west of Three Rivers, and 15th May to 1st September east of Three Rivers; proposed close season, 1st May to 1st September throughout the Province.

Ruffed Grouse.—Present close season, 1st March to 1st September; proposed close season, 1st January to 20th August.

Canada Grouse, Ptarmigan.—Present close season, 1st March to 1st September; proposed close season, 1st February to 1st September.

Hares, snaring (this is permitted by the present Act) to be prohibited.

By the new Act, all persons who shoot are required to take out license, non-residents of the Province to pay \$20 for a license to hunt

any kind of game in each district; residents to pay \$1 to \$2 for each district. License good for the whole Province, \$50.

The proposed amendments in regard to the close seasons are to be desired, and if the Spring shooting of Black Duck, Mallard, Wood Duck and Teal were prohibited, the Bill, in this respect, would meet the views of most sportsmen. Numbers of Black Duck and Wood Duck breed in suitable localities throughout the Province, and many more would, doubtless, remain to nest if protected in the Spring, as they commence nest-building early in May, and the full number of eggs is usually deposited before the latter part of that month. It is true many nests are found as late as the middle of June, but this is the result of the birds having been disturbed in Spring and prevented from occupying the places they had first selected, as in the most Northern parts of the Province, where they have been undisturbed, nests have been found as early as the 15th May. The first principle of all laws for the protection of game is that the quadrupeds and birds protected should not be disturbed at those particular seasons defined by Nature for the perpetuation of their species. It is obvious, therefore, that it is wrong to permit the shooting of these ducks until 1st May, as they have paired and selected their places for nesting long before that time. The proposed division of the Province into districts, and the imposition of a license fee for the privilege of shooting, is not likely to meet with much favour from sportsmen, who have already to pay pretty dearly for the privileges they enjoy. The confusion likely to arise from this division, and the impossibility of collecting the tax impartially will make this portion of the Bill most unpopular, not only to sportsmen, but to farmers and others who, from time immemorial, have been accustomed to enjoy a little shooting in their spare time. The necessity of securing a Government license to hunt on their own farms, cannot but seem arbitrary;

and we fail to see any good to be derived from the imposition of this tax as the revenue accruing therefrom will be more than consumed in the cost of collection.

A careful revision of the Bill is necessary before its final reading as several omissions occur, and the use of local names may lead to some confusion.

#### A MYSTERY.

A magnificent adult Moose head was lately sent by W. F. Lewis, Esq., of this city, to me to stuff. There is a mystery about the ears of this head. Each ear has three deep cuts longitudinally from the apex towards the base. The edges of the cuts are healed and covered with hair similar to the outside margins of the natural ear. Who or what cut the ears of this Moose, and what was the animal's age when these cuts were made? The head was sent from Pembroke by Messrs. T. & W. Murray to whom I wrote asking if they could give me some information regarding these ear-cuts, suggesting that at one time (probably when young) the animal may have been the property of some one who had it partially tamed; that the cuts were then made as marks of identity, and that it afterwards escaped to the woods. I have had deer heads with fresh ear-cuts which were done by the hunter after the deer was shot, but this one is the first instance of the kind coming under my notice. Messrs. Murray say:—"We do not think that it was ever tamed as there are no settlers in the section it was taken from. The Indians might probably keep one a short time when young, with a view of taking it where it could be disposed of alive, but they very seldom keep them any time." I may probably have some further information regarding these cuts. They do not represent wounds made by a quadruped; they resemble cuts made with a knife; but when and where they were made, is the mystery.

## ORNITHOLOGICAL QUERIES.

In former numbers of this journal we have asked for information regarding the economy of certain birds inhabiting Canada, of which very little is known. The natural history of the following species appears to us, worthy of further investigation.

The Gray Sea Eagle or Ern (*Haliaetus albicilla*) It was described by Cuvier. Now, there is a doubt expressed by American ornithologists as to its being a true species. An eagle resembling the European Ern occurs in Canada to which the name Gray Sea Eagle is applied, but some persons contend that it is only the young of the Bald Eagle. Mr. R. Rowe, of St. John, N.B., writes to ask "If the female of *Haliaetus leucocephalus* (Bald Eagle) has plumage same as male—*i. e.*—with white head and tail. I am inclined to think that the female has not the white head and tail. I saw a pair this fall; one had head and tail like snow, and the other which I concluded was the female, was brown. I am speaking of course of mature plumage. If I had had my rifle with me at the time, I believe I could have killed the two, as they were not twenty yards from me, and both in a line sitting on an old stump." Can any of our correspondents inform us if the Northern Sea Eagle (*H. pelagicus*, Siebold), has been shot in Canada? These three eagles are evidently mixed up in such a way that it will take some time to separate them properly. Have ornithologists compared the eggs of *H. pelagicus* with those of *H. leucocephalus*, or can the eggs of *H. albicilla* be produced as identified?

Golden-crested Wren, (*Regulus satrapa*, Licht.) I saw this species feeding its young at Mingan on the North Shore of the Lower St. Lawrence. Has its nest been found in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick or the Western portion of the Province of Quebec?

Tit Lark (*Anthus ludovicianus*, Licht.) This species visits the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec in the Fall; is said to nest in high latitudes. The bird is terrestrial and possibly the nest may approach the form of that of a *Melospiza*, and may therefore be overlooked. I have never noticed the Tit Lark in Ontario or Quebec in Summer, hence it is questionable if it nests in the vicinity of latitude 46.

Blackburnian Warbler (*Dendroica Blackburniae*.) This pretty warbler passes north through our forests about the middle of May. Has its nest been found in New Brunswick or Nova Scotia? I saw numbers of this

species in the woods of Labrador on the 17th June, but could not discover the nest. I found the nest of the Black and Yellow Warbler (*D. maculosa*) at Natashquan on the latter date.

The Evening Grosbeak (*Hesperiphona vespertina*, Bon.) Occurs in Western Ontario. Can any of our correspondents send us a description of its nest, and the geographical range of the bird in Canada? How far East has it been noticed in Ontario?

The Pine Finch (*Chrysomitris pinus*, Bon.) Has this bird been found breeding in Canada?

The Lesser Red-poll (*Aegialus linaria*, Cuv.) Two species of Red-poll are sometimes common in the Province of Quebec in the Fall, but I have not yet met with a person who found their nests in Canada.

The Sea-side Finch (*Ammodramus maritimus*, Sw.) Can any of our Nova Scotian or New Brunswick ornithologists inform us if this finch breeds within their Provinces? I found nests of a finch on the Labrador coast which I took for this species, but at the time had no facility to identify them.

The Tree Sparrow (*Spizella monticola*, Baird.) This is another species which appears in the Province of Quebec. It passes north in April. The Fall birds are mostly all young. Probably they nest in the woods on the Laurentian Mountains. I would like to obtain information regarding the nest of this species.

The Magpie (*Pica Hudsonicus*, Bon.) This bird is said to frequent the vicinity of Lake Superior. Has its nest been discovered near the latter region? C.

## BULLETIN OF THE NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY OF NEW BRUNSWICK.

The first proceedings of the Natural History Society of New Brunswick are before us; the matter, scientifically viewed, is fully equal to that issued by older institutions. It contains a catalogue of the birds of New Brunswick, by Mr. Montague Chamberlain, who appends brief notes relating to their migrations, breeding, &c. The discovery of the breeding localities of birds forms the most important research in Ornithology at this age of human inquiry, and a compiler of matter relating to this portion of American bird history, should certainly be encouraged in order to have it authentic. From Mr. Chamberlain's notes we obtain new information regarding a few species which were heretofore considered mysterious as to their breeding places, and we wish

other Oological students to follow his example and penetrate the primitive forests of New Brunswick to add additional facts to this excellent list. The Society's Committee on Botany have made a good beginning in issuing a list of plants found within the Province, and we have no doubt that through the exertions of Messrs. Hay, Chalmers and Vroom, the Flora of New Brunswick will be as thoroughly worked up as the birds have been by Mr. Chamberlain. The Bulletin is creditable to the Society and printer, and doubtless No. 2 will contain matter of similar interest.

#### REVIEW.

THE FARMERS' ADVOCATE, published at London, Ontario. The April number of this serial contains two handsome engravings (specially designed for the journal), and is replete with matter interesting to the Agriculturist. Subscription, \$1.00 per annum.

We call the attention of those of our readers who are fond of the Rod, to the advertisement headed "Sportsman's Retreat," in this issue. Our friend should have a full house during the season; guests are promised plenty of sport.

## Correspondence.

To the Editor of THE CANADIAN SPORTSMAN AND NATURALIST.

DEAR SIR,—Referring to your "Ornithological Queries" (just the thing that is wanted, and answers to which I shall look forward to with much interest), perhaps it will not be uninteresting to lovers of Ornithology to know that last week was shot on the Belvedere Flats, about twelve miles from this city, a fine female specimen of the Trumpeter Swan, (*Cygnus buccinator*). It was very thin, but in excellent plumage, entirely white with the exception of head and neck, which had markings of a very light rusty brown, so light that at a distance of a few yards the whole bird appeared white. Measurement from tip to tip of wings, 6 feet 6 in. By the slight markings on the head and neck, I concluded it was a young bird. This appears to be quite a *rara avis* in these parts. Last fall, there was killed

at Dick's Lake, N.B., a Florida Gallinule, (*Gallinula galeata*.) At Musquash, N.B., seventeen miles from here, on the 4th April, last year was shot the Purple Gallinule, (*Porphyrio Martinica*), and another last September at Quico, N.B.; the latter was in fine feather, and appeared to be a young bird. Several Green Heron (*Ardea virescens*), were taken last September at Brier Island, N.S.\* At same time were seen large flocks (?) of the Scarlet Tanager, (*Pyrauga rubra*), and Baltimore Oriole, (*Icterus Baltimore*). We have had also, this spring, quite a flight of Cross-bills, both the red (*Carrirostris Americana*) and the white-winged (*C. leucoplera*). The pine Grosbeak, (*Pinicola Canadensis*), is frequently found in this Province, but whether they nest here or not, I have been unable as yet to determine. With the exception of the flocks of Tanagers and Orioles mentioned above, I have seen all these birds *in the flesh*.

I am, yours truly,

R. Rowe.

St. John, N.B., 10th April, 1882.

\* An island in the Bay of Fundy, at the S. W. extremity of Digby Neck, on it is a lighthouse.

#### IDENTIFICATION OF NUTHATCHES.

SIR,—When I wrote the article published in the April number, I stated that I had not seen the nest or eggs of *Sitta Canadensis*, and in a note to Mr. Dunlop, giving some of my observations regarding the identification of Nuthatches, I stated that on one occasion I had seen the nest of this bird—*Sitta Carolinensis*—in a cavity of a decayed tree, like that of a wood-pecker. Subsequent investigation amid the wild haunts of these birds, proves that the red bellied species are far more numerous than I had supposed, and a review of my observations, taken at the time, now makes me confident that the nest referred to belonged to the latter bird. It was in the early part of June 1866, I was cutting down timber on the margin of a beaver meadow where the wood, mostly balsam, cedar, and white wood (linden), was thick. I happened, among others to fell an old linden stub, and to my regret and the great distress of the parent birds, found that it contained the nest of a Nuthatch, in which were three young ones, which were nearly killed by the fall of the tree. The cavity in which the nest was placed was about twenty feet from the ground, made like that of a wood-pecker or chickadee, and not more than



eight or ten inches deep; this excavation, I have no doubt, was the work of the birds themselves. In the bottom was a small quantity of fibrous, woody matter. This nest was altogether different to any of the Nuthatches that I have seen, and it struck me at the time as very peculiar. I also noted that the birds were darker in color, and their notes considerably different to those commonly observed in the high, hardwood lands, but until years afterwards, when I procured a copy of "Ross' Birds of Canada," I was not aware that the Red and White-bellied birds, were distinct species. Since then I have observed that the habitat of *Sitta Canadensis* is generally the deep evergreen woods, and lately, I note, that its call is louder, more prolonged and plaintive than that of its white-bellied congener, which latter is partial to the hardwood regions, and always makes its large nest (formed of moss, fibrous bark and hair) in the natural hollows of trees. Years ago I had observed some of these birds excavating cavities in old stumps, generally softwood timber, and that in the fall of the year, they hid up a supply of different kind of seeds in such place; I am now disposed to believe that this was particularly the work of the Red-bellied species.

W. L. KELLS, Listowel, Ont.

#### SUPPOSED NESTS OF THE CROSSBILL.

On the 10th of April, when taking a ramble for ornithological purposes, with my two boys, in a cedar swamp, north of this town, I noticed a number of nest-like structures, placed on the branches of cedar and other evergreens, generally about twelve to twenty feet from the ground. I had often, in different places, noticed similar structures before, always in the early spring, and knowing that these had been made in the winter, supposed that they were the work of some squirrel. On the above date, however, curiosity led me to examine several of these structures more closely, and to my surprise, I found that they were the nests of some birds, and had evidently been recently occupied. Compared with the size of the bird that must have built and occupied these hut-like formations, they were large. One which I brought home, measured two feet six inches in circumference; yet the inside cavity was only about four inches in diameter, and the entrance showed that the body of the builder was about the size of that of the pine finch. The outsides of these nests were formed of moss calculated to keep out cold, and throw off the

rain, while the inside was thickly lined with the soft fibrous dry cedar bark, and in some cases, small quantities of hair. The materials of the entrance were of such quality and arrangement as to almost close when the occupant went in or out, and it would appear also that it was the intention of the owners to cover the contents when they found it necessary to leave it for the purpose of procuring food. For a while I was puzzled to know what species of the feathered race had made these nests, and therein reared their young in the midst of our cold and stormy winters. I then recollected and re-read the article in the last February number by Dr. Garnier, on the Crossbills, the mystery was solved. These moss-made hut-shaped structures were the nests of *Loxia curvirostra*. I then recollected that in the winter of 1866, and following years, I had observed these birds in flocks in the barn-yard and among the evergreen woods of North Wallace, where also I first noticed those curious nests, but never thought they were the habitations of birds, or that any bird could rear their young at such a season of the year in our climate. Lately a neighbour informed me that he saw the nest of a bird with four young in the month of March, but could give no information as to the species or formation of the nest. It was, of course, a crossbill. I did not see any of these birds this season, they had evidently departed northward before my advent among their winter homes. I hope another season to see their eggs.

W. L. KELLS, Listowel, Ont.

*Sitta Canadensis*. When I first discovered the nest of this bird, both male and female were busy gathering soft material to complete their nest; the spot selected for this purpose being a hole in a dead tree, about ten feet from the ground; the hole, however, was not the work of these birds, but one which had probably been made by a squirrel or woodpecker some seasons previous, the cavity being about fourteen inches deep. *Sitta Carolinensis*. As the northern limit of this Nuthatch, as a winter resident, is somewhat indefinite, I might mention the fact that one was taken at Westfield March 10th, 1882.

HAROLD GILBERT.

St. John, N.B., April 23, 1882.

DEAR SIR,—In answer to your query in the March number of the SPORTSMAN AND NATURALIST, concerning the nesting of *Antros-*

*tomus vociferus* (Bp.), I can say that I have found several nests in the Province of Quebec, in latitude 46°. The bird is quite common in the County of Ottawa, P. Q. Mr. W. P. Anderson tells me that he found both the Whip-poor-Will and the Night Hawk very common in the North-West Territory, some distance north of latitude 49°. Can you tell me whether there is, so far, any record of the Western Grebe (*Podiceps Occidentalis, Linn*) being taken in Ontario or Quebec? Prof. Macoun, I think, found it north of Winnipeg. Mr. George White, of this city, shot a pair near here last season, but the skins have unfortunately been lost.

W. L. SCOTT.

Ottawa, Ont. April 26, 1882.

Norfolk.—The Western Grebe occurs rarely in the Province of Quebec. I purchased one in the Quebec market.—C.

#### THE BIRDS OF PREY OF NOVA SCOTIA.

BY J. BERNARD GILPIN, A.B., M.D., M.R.C.S.

He is common, and most probably breeds with us, as he is seen during that season, but I have no note of his nesting. He leaves us during November, the swamps then being frozen, and the mice, reptiles and snakes, his usual food, hibernating. He is seen beating our new mown fields and swamps, but never hunting the shores abounding with shore birds. The females and young are much more abundant than the slate grey male. In his habits he resembles the buzzard, as he does somewhat in bill and claws. In the next family of hawks we have the sharp-shin (*A. fuscus*), Cooper's hawk (*A. Cooperi*), and the Goshawk (*A. atricapillus*). The sharp-shin is, perhaps, our most common hawk. I have noted him in May and in December. Little doubt he breeds with us, though I do not know his nest. Though slenderer than the falcons, his bill lighter, and upper mandible scarcely notched, he is by no means their inferior in audacity and headlong pounce. One broke the glass of Mr. Downs' aviary in attacking a canary, seen through. He will often attack caged birds hanging in country houses, and even enter the city for the same game. Cooper's hawk (*A. Cooperi*), an enlarged model of the last, is very rare. I am indebted to Mr. Egan for notes of one specimen mounted by himself and afterwards sent home to England. I have never seen it myself. The Goshawk (*A. atricapillus*) is common and seen during the

breeding season, though I have no notes of time. A pair wintered near the light-house at Digby Gut, 1880; but this is unusual. The vicinity to the sea would make one suppose they lived upon fish. Few hawks of any species, save eagles, are seen after December, even the fish hawks leave us. One would suppose a duck upon the water would be an easy prey for them, and our winter shores are covered by them; but I have never heard or have read of any hawk making like the fish-hawk what may be called a water pounce. The Goshawk is the type of the great hen hawk of the farmers' wives. He comes out in the open, is not seen beating marshes like the buzzards and harriers, or the sea sands like the smaller falcons, but prowls about the homesteads, coming suddenly with the swiftness of the gale from nowhere, and sweeping a hen or chicken from the very feet of its owner, gone as suddenly as it came, and losing in the deadly rush for a time that caution and wariness which ever keeps him from the vicinity of man. The next Family are the Falcons; a more powerful organisation comparatively; a keener ardor and untamed spirit; the habit of taking their prey with a pounce from a tall tree, or perpendicularly from the air, rather than hunting along the surface; a stronger, shorter, and peculiarly notched bill, and pointed wing, define this family as it were abruptly from the others. It is the type of the highest excellence of the whole order. Of six species inhabiting North America, four are found in Nova Scotia; two probably nesting, the others rare, and as respects the jerk-falcon accidental visitors. In *F. Sacer* we miss the old name so long given by naturalists to the falcon of antiquity, but bow to the law that gives to the first scientific discoverer (Forster) the right of the specific name. Of this historical bird, the companion and pet of mediæval princes, the subject of the ancient pseudo science of hawking, with all its complex phraseology, I am indebted to Mr. Downs for my sole note. One specimen was mounted by him some twenty years since, being taken by a vessel on the coast and brought to Halifax, and a second specimen is exhibited this evening by him. They are not uncommon at Newfoundland, being called white hawks, and sometimes stray south of us, into New England doubtless taking the inland route. The duck hawk (*F. communis*), and here again we lose the fine old name *peregrinus*, a bold and beautiful bird, with the eye, toothed bill,

and powerful claw of its race in the highest beauty and perfection in my experience, is very rare. There was a good specimen in the Halifax Museum 1870, and Mr. Downs has noted it. This falcon is the *anatum* and great footed hawk of American writers. The pigeon hawk (*F. columbarius*) is perhaps the most common hawk of our Province. My notes are September and November, but still I believe he nests with us or is found during the time of incubation. He is a true falcon, in dash, temerity and force. He will strike a duck upon the wing and lacerate and tear up the whole back and neck region so as to produce death. He occurs here with a variation of colour. In the Provincial Museum are specimens with four obscure whitish bars upon tail. A specimen in Mr. J. M. Jones' collection agrees with this; the bars broader. Another, shot by Mr. Alfred Gilpin, has five white bars, the fifth obscured by tail coverts. Another specimen, shot by John Baxter, Nov. 4th, 1880, has five dark bars crossing the tail, the fifth hid by tail coverts. In this specimen the colour was more plumbeous on back and rump and tail, and more whitish below. I have not specimens enough to show any analogy between the plumbeous coloured back and darker tail bars, and whiter colour below. Cones asserts the female has white bars, Reeks (Zoologist, 1869.) describes it at Newfoundland, as having dark bars. The question is also complicated by Richardson's merlin or *Aesalon* of the old world, very allied to this species, being found in America, though denied by Cones. We find this very active and bold falcon on the flats of the sea shores, pouncing aerially upon the *Tringa*, *Torax* and other shore birds in their autumn migration. He lingers into November before he leaves us. There is no prettier sight than on a warm September day, in the Digby Basin, when the great Bay of Fundy tide has filled up to the very rushes the salt water estuaries and creeks; when the peeps and shore birds are like snowy drifts on the edge of the tide, waiting for the ebb; when the herons, coming full twenty miles from their herony by the forest lake side, are roosting in awkward groups on the spruce pines and birches overhanging the tideway, also waiting for the ebb; than an instant alarm of shrieks from the herons, followed by an instant barking of the crows, rising and falling about the tops of the pines, disturb you, as floating in your canoe you are watching how a feathery gull, or an early scoter, is breaking the majestic mirror all around you.

Malti Pieton, your Indian, says, "May bee herons don't like the hawk"; and then, as you turn your eyes landward, you see the hawk sailing in short circles around and then with a sweep leaping down upon the herons, recovering himself and passing with lazily flap of wing slowly their roosting trees. He, too, is waiting for the ebb. The sparrow hawk (*F. sparverius*) is not rare with us; my notes of him are in September, but Mr. J. M. Jones allows me to say, he has seen them during the summer in the valley of Annapolis, with all the habits of a resident bird, and probably nesting. Its beautiful colouring and bold upright form and audacity makes him everywhere a marked species. Of the next family of buzzards, I have identified three species. This family, more robust than the last and more powerful in form, have less audacity, sitting for hours listlessly on a dead tree, living on the smaller mammals and reptiles which, flying low, they snatch rather than pounce upon, are still audacious plunderers of the farm yard. Of the Red-shouldered hawk (*B. lineatus*) I have only Mr. Downs' notes. I have never seen it. The winter falcon (*A. lagopus*) is seen rarely here. A specimen in the Halifax Museum agrees with Richardson's figure and description, the colours scarcely so bright. I saw one specimen of a black hawk in Mr. Roue's collection, at Halifax, 1870. It was alive and therefore could not be examined closely, but it looked so very unlike, in size and figure, the *lagopus*, that I could scarcely call it a nigritism of that bird. But still I have nothing explicit enough to call it a true species, especially as the best writers unite in not considering it such. I can not but think there is a lost hawk in this family. The Red-tail hawk (*B. borealis*) is a common hawk with us. My notes give him the middle of April, Summer and November resident, but leaving us in winter. Our specimens, in the finest nuptial plumage, differ from Richardson's description both in the colour of tail and breast. They have very much more brown and ferruginous on breast, and the tails of the brightest chestnut red, the two outer tail feathers obscurely barred. Richardson says of his specimen, killed at Carleton house, May, 1827, "The tail is brownish orange, tipped with soiled white, with a subterminal band of blackish brown there are also traces of thirteen other brownish bars."

(To be continued.)

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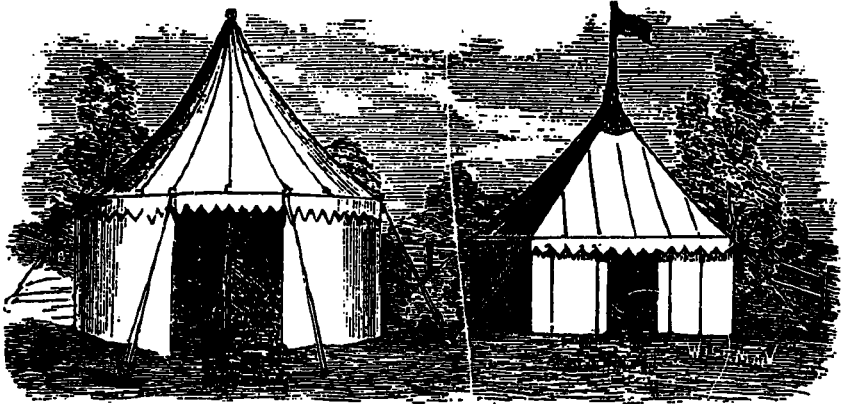
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