

6. *L. torulosa*, internodes equalling the nodes = (*Conferva fluviatilis nodosa* Fucum æmulans, Sea Horse-tail-like *Conferva*, *Dill. Hist. Musc. tab. vii. fig. 48.* *Conferva torulosa*, *Roth., Mohr., Dillw., &c.* *Lemania incurvata*, *Bory.*) Recorded as occurring in mountain streams near Ludlow, Salop (*Dillenius*), Anglesea (*Rev. H. Davies*); also in France, Germany, Kentucky, United States (*Dr. Short* in *Harvey, Nereis*).
7. *β. usneoides* = (*Conferva usneoides*, *Wallr.*) Saxony.
8. *L. variegata* = (*Hippuris fluviatilis petræa nuda Virginiensis*, *Pluk.*) Belleville, Canada West (*J. Macoun.*) United States, Pennsylvania? (*Muhlenberg*).

Probably *L. fluv*, *α. subtilis*, and *L. torulosa*, *β. usneoides*, may be found, on investigation, to be well-marked species. The various forms deserve a careful examination, and I would beg to direct the attention of British botanists to the subject.

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ART. V. ON THE LAND BIRDS OF NOVA SCOTIA.  
BY A. DOWNS.

[*Read Jan. 9, 1865.*]

To the casual visitor, Nova Scotia would appear to be very deficient in bird life, and to a certain extent this condition is apparent even to the settler, for in certain seasons of the year and in winter, the interior districts seem altogether deserted by members of the feathered tribe. The lumberer will tell you that his monotonous life in the woods at the latter season, is rarely cheered by the presence of birds, and save and except the peeping cry of the black cap, and Hudson's Bay tit, and the brown creeper, with an occasional harsh note from the Canada jay, or a "chip" from the red squirrel, no sound beside the creaking branches of the maple, or the melancholy sough of the pine, is heard to break the death-like silence which reigns around. An English settler will not fail to notice the difference which exists between the scarcity of birds around his country house here and in the old country. Here a few blue birds or titmice are the only specimens seen about dwellings, while in England flocks of vociferous sparrows are feeding in the yard, and many a black bird, thrush, hedge-sparrow, and green linnet, haunt the garden and orchard, taking their toll from the gooseberry and currant bushes.



This scarcity of birds renders a residence in British North America by no means so pleasing as it otherwise would be, if the hours of early morning were enlivened by the merry chirpings of our feathered favourites; and although some may be inclined to think that the presence or absence of birds has little to do with our happiness so long as prosperity attends our worldly condition, they will surely acknowledge that the song of birds, attached as it always is to the season of summer, when the flowers exhale their perfume and the bursting leaves give fragrance to the breeze, tends to elevate our feelings, and make us realize the full benefit we enjoy in the contemplation of these pleasing scenes of nature.

It may not be out of place here to consider for a moment whether we should not derive benefit from the acclimatization of some of these household birds of England. Take the common sparrow for instance. What a treat it would be to see these saucy fellows preening their feathers on our roofs, and collecting in dozens round our doors to pick up the scraps, and I would even go so far as to say, gobbling up the cherries in our gardens; for who would not make a sacrifice of some kind, to colonize his domain with such a family of merry friends. It is often said that the cold of a Nova Scotian winter would soon kill the English bird; but how is it, I ask, that many of these birds are found in Germany and all parts of Northern Europe, where the cold is often as great as we have it here. Then the birds I speak of are more of a domestic type, keeping near dwellings, and apparently preferring the society of man. If, therefore, during the hardest weather we took care to feed them daily, as we do the poultry, our barns and outhouses and spruce thickets would afford them sufficient shelter at night. I think it is worth a trial.

In the following list it will be observed that no less than eighteen different species of true warblers visit us in summer. Some of these are remarkable for the beauty of their plumage, and even more so for their song.

To him who is blest with a desire to retire from the busy hum of men, and amid the seclusion of the forest to study in nature's school, a bright sunny morning at the end of May, when the hard woods are expanding their newly-formed leaves, presents a scene which no pen could properly describe. Flitting about from tree to



tree, these gaudy plumaged little songsters sing their melodious song, while the sunbeams dance in the shadowy glades, or flash upon the varnished leaves which rustle to the balmy western breeze. Up and down, round and round, chasing each other, darting from thicket to thicket, these merry little migrants from sunnier climes pursue in wanton playfulness their mates, or catch their insect prey; while at intervals they mount the topmost branches of birch or maple, and with distended throat and excited look pour forth their dulcet strains. Hard must be the heart of that man who is not moved at the scene around him, or as my worthy master in ornithology, Mr. Waterton, truly says in his ever memorable “ ‘ Wanderings in the South American forests ’—heedless and bankrupt in all curiosity must he be, who cannot pause to look upon the towering mora tree, or listen to the distant bell note of the snow-white campanero.”

But I fear my prefatory remarks are becoming too long and tedious. I will therefore pass on to my notes upon sixty-one different species of land birds, which will occupy my first paper upon the “ Birds of Nova Scotia; ” and should the present list prove interesting to the members of our Institute, I shall have great pleasure in following it up with others, and complete, if life and health be spared me, a perfect catalogue of all the birds that have been observed in the Province to the present time.

THE GOLDEN EAGLE—(*Aquila chrysaetos*).—A specimen of this rare bird was taken in a fox trap uninjured, at Newport, in the winter of 1856. I first became acquainted with this bird in a garret, and he was so pugnacious, attacking Dr. Buskirk and myself with such fury, that I had to seize a broomstick to keep him off. Mr. Scarfe kept him for a year or more in a back yard opposite Mr. John Esson’s, but at last he made his escape.

BALD-HEADED EAGLE—(*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*).—This bird is pretty common on the eastern coast of this Province. At Tangier their nests occur on the topmost branches of blasted pines and other trees. The nests are of large size and formed of sticks, and are always placed in an almost inaccessible position. This powerful bird when wounded throws itself upon its back on the approach of the sportsman, and with glaring eyes dashes out its huge talons with the utmost fury, rendering its capture by no means easy.



Some years ago, when I lived in town, I kept a pair of these eagles tame in my yard. One day Capt. Sir Richard Grant, R. N., came rushing in, in a great hurry, calling out—“Downs, your eagles are on the house and will get away,” as he didn't know it was a common resting place for them. I afterwards gave these eagles to Capt. Dickson, the son of Sir Jeremiah Dickson, who many of you will recollect, and he took them to England with him. The female is extremely savage, for one in my collection when first taken at Tangier seized a child, and had killed several cats belonging to the miners. There is a dispute among naturalists as to whether there be two distinct varieties of this bird. The fact is, that the young birds do not assume the perfect plumage of white head and tail until the third year, and this immature state has no doubt given rise to the supposition. I am quite certain of the fact of the plumage requiring three years to mature, having one in my possession at the present time, which is just assuming the white head. In the month of June, some years ago, when that ardent naturalist the Rev. Mr. Torre, Secretary to Lord Falkland, was here, in company with him I visited the Shubenacadie, collecting specimens. We came upon the nesting place of these birds, situate on the precipitous cliffs beyond the Grand Lake. The young were sitting on the ledges of the rock high up, and screaming vociferously for food, which rendered the solitude of the place doubly felt. Thousands of night hawks were dashing over the river in chase of their insect prey as the sun was setting behind the dense mass of forest in the west, and as the wild notes of the birds echoed from the surrounding rocks, we stayed our paddles to rest for a while, and listen to this charming music of the wilderness.

OSPREY—(*Pandion haliaetus*).—This bird is very common on our Atlantic coast, breeding in the vicinity of most harbours. I do not think that he ever troubles the settlers by making raids upon the poultry yards, as he appears to be a worthy inhabitant of Nova Scotia—a pure fisherman. Poising himself for a while in mid-air, he is suddenly seen to dash headlong to the water, and rise immediately with a large fish in his talons. This he carries to his eyrie, generally situated on the topmost branches of a storm-bleached rampike. If I were to state the quantity of sticks of which the nests of this bird is composed, you would surely think



me guilty of exaggeration, for an ordinary cart would hardly hold it. He sets a good example to commissariat officials in looking far ahead in the furnishing of his larder, so much so that it sometimes becomes offensive from the effluvia arising from the superabundant food left unconsumed. I kept a nest of the young of this species in my collection last year.

ICE FALCON—(*Falco Icelandicus*).—I only know of one instance of this bird occurring in Nova Scotia. This was taken at the mouth of the harbour here in an exhausted condition on board a ship, and died shortly after it came into my possession. This is more properly a European bird.

GOSHAWK—(*Astur Atricapillus*).—This bird is far too common—a perfect villain among poultry. Even a few days ago he carried off a beautiful little call duck belonging to my neighbour, Mr. Drillio; a pet pigeon from Capt. Hugonin, and also a call duck from me. I lost many fancy pigeons of great value last year by one of these birds; in fact every one, more or less, on the peninsula and about the head of the Arm, suffers annually from his depredations. I cannot invent a name bad enough for him. The young of this bird for the first year is so different from the adult, that many persons not well acquainted with the bird would consider these varieties as distinct species.

ROUGH-LEGGED BUZZARD—(*Buteo lagopus*).—Very rare, and only occasionally shot on his migrations to the north. It is a handsome bird, feathered to the toes. I once possessed a splendid specimen, which I stuffed.

RED-TAILED BUZZARD—(*B. borealis*).—I have a living specimen of this bird in my possession now. He was taken in the garden at the Ordnance Yard, in the act of seizing a pet crow belonging to Mr. Pengelley. A soldier caught him in his hands. One day the Chief Justice brought Mr. Livesey out to my place, and on my telling the former that I had tried and condemned my specimen for attempted murder, Mr. Livesey said “he has evidently made a bad use of his talents (talons).”

RED-SHOULDERED BUZZARD—(*B. lineatus*).—This bird is of rare occurrence. I have only seen two specimens.

HEN, OR MARSH HARRIER—(*Circus Hudsonicus*).—This bird appears to have the widest range of any hawk known, being found



in all parts of Europe, Asia, Africa, and America, even to the Equator. It is always known by the white rump, which occurs in all changes of its plumage from youth to maturity. In habit it is cruel, though cowardly, searching everywhere for victims, but selecting them only from weak and helpless objects. It preys upon moles, mice, young birds, and is very destructive to young game: nor does it spare fish, snakes, or even worms. I once took two green snakes from the crop of one of these birds. The slender body and elegant shape distinguish this species from others of the genus.

**PIGEON HAWK**—(*Falco columbarius*).—This species is common in Nova Scotia, breeding in all the wooded parts of the colony. It is not troublesome to the farmer, only feeding upon the smaller birds. On my recent visit to Boston, while on my passage about half way across the Bay of Fundy, while I lay sick in my berth on board the "Delta," I was suddenly hailed by Mr. Cunard, who said a live bird had just come on board. Refreshed by the intelligence, I jumped up on deck, and found a sailor with a beautiful little pigeon-hawk in his hand, which had been taken in the rigging; General Doyle called for some meat, a portion of which he consumed. Unfortunately, after my putting him into a box, a steward, while feeding him, pulled one of the laths off, and just as we made Cape Ann, our little friend flew up the gangway and hasted ashore—thus getting his passage free, all found.

**SHARP-SHINNED HAWK** — (*Astur fuscus*). — Common. Breeds all over the Province. Like the pigeon hawk, it does not molest the poultry yards, being too weak and puerile to attack large prey.

**SPARROW HAWK** — (*Falco sparverius*). — Savage and bold in habit, this little bird, swift of flight, attacks even a canary at the cottage window. It is happily not very common. I once raised a nest of young ones, four in number, which afterwards died. Its plumage is very rich—black, brown, and white, deeply marked and distinct.

**HAWK OWL**—(*Strix funerea*).—This bird is in some years very abundant in winter time, but may not be seen again for four or five years. It is common in Newfoundland, where it breeds in the cariboo districts. I have often kept living specimens in confinement, taken sometimes on board the Cunard steamers off the coast.



GREAT-HORNED OWL—(*Bubo Virginianus*).— I have now in my collection two of these birds, which I have had for several years. The female is a very fierce bird, and has a certificate of bad character nailed on her cage. She murdered her husband, and ate him, and from her dignified deportment has been named by visitors “The Lord Chancellor.” She is black with murder, treason, sacrilege, and crime, and was presented to me by Mr. J. M. Jones.

SNOWY OWL—(*S. nyctea*).— This bird is common here in winter, and breeds in Newfoundland. It appears that in some winters these birds traverse the North American continent in flocks. Last winter they made their appearance in great numbers in different parts of Canada.

BARRED OWL—(*Syrnium nebulosum*).— This bird is a resident, never migrating from the colony. It breeds in the woods in all parts. It feeds on hares and ruffed and spruce grouse. The eye of this species is round and bluish-black in colour, while all the other owls have yellow eyes. This is the bird that disturbs the midnight slumber of the moose hunter and lumberer, coming near the camp fire and peering into the glare, which gives it a demoniacal appearance. Distending its throat and pushing its head forward, it gives vent to an unearthly sound, which to the superstitious is all but overcoming. While moose hunting some years ago, a colored man of kindred taste, by name Cornelius Toliver, one evening at the camp fire while listening to the hooting of this owl, related a superstitious tale regarding the appearance of his brother's wife after death, a circumstance of which he seemed greatly in dread.

LONG-EARED OWL—(*S. otus*).— Very rare in the colony, but is flushed occasionally when sportsmen are woodcock shooting.

SHORT-EARED OWL—(*S. brachyotos*).— Occurs here but rarely. I have a specimen which was taken alive on board the R. M. S. *Canada*, off Cork, Ireland, about two years ago.

TENGMALMI'S OWL—(*Noctua Tengmalmi*).— Not common here, but abundant in Newfoundland. I stuffed two of these pretty little birds for a passenger in the “Osprey,” who brought them to me alive, having captured them on board that ship off Cape Ray.

ACADIAN OWL.— This bird is known to the Indians and settlers as the “saw-weet,” from its emitting a cry somewhat like that word. Capt. Bland, R. E., and Mr. George Piers had a living



specimen of this bird which they put into a room with a live rat. He immediately attacked and killed the rat, but died shortly afterwards, having apparently overtaxed his strength in his efforts, which will not be wondered at when we consider that the weight of this little assassin is but two ounces and a copper.

WHIP-POOR-WILL—(*Caprimulgus vociferus*).—This bird used to breed here regularly near Hosterman's mill at the head of the Arm. I once heard one crying by my pond close to the house at midnight; but alas! from causes unknown, we no longer hear the plaintiff cry of the Whip-poor-Will. Waterton, speaking of this bird in the forests of Demerara, under the name of "goatsucker," thus proceeds—"The harmless, unoffending goatsucker, from the time of Aristotle down to the present day, has been in disgrace with man. Father has handed down to son, and author to author, that this nocturnal thief subsists by milking the flocks. Poor injured little bird of night, how sadly hast thou suffered, and how foul a stain has inattention to fact, put upon thy character! Thou hast never robbed man of any part of his property, nor deprived the kid of a drop of milk." When the moon shines bright, you may have a fair opportunity of examining the goatsucker. You will see it close by the cows, goats, and sheep, jumping up every now and then under their bellies. Approach a little nearer,—he is not shy, "he fears no danger, for he knows no sin." See how the nocturnal flies are tormenting the herd, and with what dexterity he springs up and catches them as fast as they alight on the belly, legs, and udder of the animals. Observe how quiet they stand, and how sensible they seem of his good offices. Were you to dissect him and inspect his stomach, you would find no milk there. It is full of the flies which have been annoying the herd.

NIGHT HAWK—(*C. Virginianus*).—This very common bird breeds on all blueberry barrens throughout the colony. It rarely visits us until the warm weather of June arrives, and departs for the south before the first frosts of autumn arrive. They lay two pretty mottled eggs on the bare ground.

SPINE-TAILED CHIMNEY SWALLOW—(*Hirundo pelagica*).—Very common, building its nest in a chimney formed of little sticks, glued together with a glutinous substance, somewhat like the edible bird nests of China.



PURPLE MARTIN—(*H. purpurea*).—This bird visits us every summer, but does not appear to like the place, as we are perhaps too near the sea coast. I have offered it every opportunity for breeding, to no purpose. When our Institute visited Windsor, at its first field meeting in the summer of 1863, I saw some of these birds looking for a convenient place to nest in about the Clifton House; and I am sure they would breed there if suitable boxes were provided for them, as they appear to delight to breed about inland hotels in the United States, where they are always provided with martin houses. In the western States, the Indians put up hollow gourds on poles for their accommodation.

WHITE-BELLIED MARTIN—(*H. bicolæ*).—Breeds freely in boxes at my house and Halifax. It is the earliest swallow we have, arriving here about St. George's day. It is not gregarious in habit.

CLIFF SWALLOW—(*H. fulvus*).—This bird is very different in its habits from the latter species, building its nest of mud, while the other uses straw and feathers. It also likes the society of its fellows, always building in company in positions like the Dockyard, old Barracks, Province Building, and Dartmouth church, from which latter place I am sorry to say it has been driven away by having its nesting places built up. What would Waterton say to such inhospitality? I saw this bird breeding about the cliffs of the rocks overhanging the Shubenacadie, in numbers.

BANK SWALLOW—(*H. riparia*).—Not found about Halifax, but is plentiful about the shores of the Basin of Minas, where it builds in the banks. Mr. Torre shot one for a specimen when entering its hole to feed its young. We counted about two hundred flies in its mouth and throat.

BARN SWALLOW—(*H. rustica*).—Is very common, breeding in most of the barns of the country. It is a good architect, like the cliff swallow, building a mud house for its young.

BELTED KINGFISHER—(*Alcedo alcyon*).—This is a very common bird all over the Province. It builds its nest in a bank, high above the water at the end of a tunnel about two feet long. It lays six fine pearly white eggs. It pays frequent visits to my pond, sitting upon the dead branch of a tree, from which it occasionally makes a plunge for a fish. I think this bird might be kept in confinement, like the Laughing Jackass of Australia, another member of the



genus. The note of this bird is very similar to the “whir” of a watchman’s rattle, and is more frequently emitted during the breeding season.

TYRANT FLY-CATCHER, or KING-BIRD—(*Muscicapa tyrannus*).—Inland, but rare on the sea coast. At Londonderry, Windsor, &c., it is by no means a scarce bird. They are very useful on farms as watch-birds, driving away hawks from the poultry yards. This bird ought undoubtedly to be carefully preserved by all farmers, for he may well be termed “the farmer’s friend.” He also feeds on noxious insects. Poor Alexander Wilson paid a tribute to his worth in a poem, the language of which is so touchingly beautiful, that apart from all his other publications it is sufficient to raise him in the estimation of all kind-hearted people.

GREEN-CRESTED FLY-CATCHER—(*M. Acadica*).—Frequents the woods, and is generally seen in company with the warblers. It builds a little hanging nest, usually suspended between the fork of a small branch, and lays four white eggs.

AMERICAN REDSTART—(*M. ruticilla*).—This beautiful bird is very common, arriving generally about the 10th of May. It is called by the settlers “gold-finch.” By no means shy, this little fly-catcher presents a showy appearance in our woods. Several pairs breed every year near my house, forming nests similar to those of the green-crested fly-catcher. Waterton found this species in the winter season in Demerara, but never knew where it bred.

RED-EYED VIREO—(*Vireo olivaceous*).—Very common. It used to breed plentifully in the hardwood groves at Purcell’s Cove, but I grieve to say that the fishermen living there have cut down nearly all the trees for fuel, and the poor Vireo has to seek for another home. His note sounds like “Whip Tom Kelly,” constantly repeated all day long.

CANADA FLY-CATCHER—(*Myiodioces Canadensis*).—This species usually arrives about the 10th of May. Its colour is olive green with a black cap. It is always found with the warblers, and appears to be a connecting link between the warbler and fly-catcher.

NOTE.—There is another large species of fly-catcher which I cannot make out. It frequents the barrens about Grand Lake and Lawson’s Mill. It is very solitary in habit, and does not make its appearance until the summer is well advanced. The coloured man Toliver, mentioned before, was generally hailed by his children when the first note of this bird was heard, with—“Daddy, here summer’s come.”



GREAT AMERICAN SHRIKE—(*Lanius borealis*).—This bird is common in winter time, and is very daring, attacking even canaries in cages at a window. I think it breeds north, as it is not observed here in summer.

ROBIN, or MIGRATORY THRUSH—(*Turdus migratorius*).—Of this bird I need say but little, as all people, old and young, are cheered by his presence and song in spring. It also enlivens the homes of the Newfoundlanders at the same season. Arrives here about St. Patrick's day; a few stop with us all winter.

HERMIT THRUSH—(*T. solitarius*).—Common, although not generally observed. Its sweet yet melancholy note, given from the top of a spruce, late in the evening, induces the settlers to name it "*the nightingale*." It lays four eggs of a blue colour in a nest on the ground, formed of dry grass and small roots, and is generally placed under the shade of the ground juniper.

OLIVACEOUS THRUSH—(*T. olivaceus*).—This species may be readily taken for the last. It makes a far different nest however, building in trees; the egg is also very different in colour. Its plumage is more of an olive green, while the former is of a rich brown.

CAT BIRD—(*T. felivox*).—This is a common bird, but does not arrive until the summer is well advanced. It breeds in the alder swamps about the Dutch Village, and lays four blue eggs. Some of my neighbours have several of these birds in cages at the present time. It is the best song bird we have.

GOLDEN-CROWNED THRUSH—(*T. aurocapillus*).—Very common in the wooded districts, but hardly ever seen in the open. It builds an oven-shaped nest, and lays four eggs. Its note is loud and rapid and makes the woods ring with its echoes. In habit it is shy and solitary.

WATER THRUSH—(*Cinclus Americanus*).—This species is found about the margins of solitary lakes in the woods, and appears to delight in running in the shallows, searching for water beetles and other insects. It has long and slender white legs well suited to its habits, which are somewhat similar to those of the water wagtails of England.

AMERICAN PIPIT—(*Anthus Ludovicianus*).—This bird generally arrives here on its way to the south about the 20th September, and



only stays a week or ten days. It may frequently be observed about that date on the stone walls around "the common," constantly wagging its tail up and down. It feeds upon insects and small seeds.

SHORE LARK—(*Alauda alpestris*).—Generally arrives here from the south about the end of March, on its way to the north. It breeds in Newfoundland.

RED-POLL WARBLER—(*Sylvicola petechia*).—This is the pioneer of the genus *sylvicola*, arriving here about St. George's Day, even while the snow remains upon the ground. It makes its nest in a little mossy hillock in swampy places in the woods.

YELLOW RUMP WARBLER—(*S. coronata*).—This is the next visitor, arriving about the 1st of May. It builds its nest at the top of a pine tree, and lays four little blotched eggs. It is very common; handsomely marked with lemon yellow on the head, butts of the wings, and rump. Many people call it a goldfinch.

BLACK-POLL WARBLER—(*S. striata*).—Rare. I have shot but few specimens, and know nothing of its habits.

BAY-BREASTED WARBLER—(*S. castanea*).—This species is not very common, and frequents pine woods.

CHESNUT-SIDED WARBLER—(*S. ictero-cephala*).—This gay little warbler is very common in the birch groves, flitting from tree to tree, pouring forth its love song in the breeding season.

HEMLOCK WARBLER—(*S. parus*).—Only one specimen of this rare visitor has fallen under my notice, which I shot near the "rocking stone" at Kidston's.

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER—(*S. virens*).—Abundant in pine woods. Its note sounds like "a little bit of bread and no cheese." Have never found the nest of this bird.

CAPE MAY WARBLER.—(*S. maritima*).—Very rare. I have only seen one specimen, which I shot at Dartmouth some thirty years ago. I still have it in my collection.

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER—(*S. Blackburnia*).—Observed on the hardwood hills about Grand Lake, but never about the sea-coast district. It is one of the handsomest of the warblers which visit us.

YELLOW-POLL WARBLER—(*S. aestiva*).—I have shot a few specimens of this bird about Kidston's, but know little of its habits.

YELLOW-BACKED WARBLER—(*S. Americana*).—This is another rare species, occurring inland in hardwood districts. I have shot



several specimens; always perched on the tops of the highest maples and other hardwood trees, over brooks of running water.

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER—(*S. Canadensis*).—Occurs rarely about Grand Lake. Have never shot more than two specimens.

BLACK AND YELLOW WARBLER—(*S. maculosa*).—Abundant in all the wooded districts; arriving about the 10th of May.

BLUE-EYED YELLOW WARBLER.—This familiar little warbler breeds in the vicinity of dwellings, generally in a gooseberry or lilac bush. It is of great service to the garden, consuming vast quantities of green caterpillars and insects. It is very fond of willow trees, and generally observed in such positions.

BLUE-GREEN WARBLER.—This species is very rare.

MOURNING WARBLER—(*Trichas Philadelphica*).—Of this species I have only obtained one specimen, which I shot at the “rocking stone,” near Kidston’s, four years ago.

MARYLAND YELLOW-THROAT—(*T. Marilandica*).—This pert little fellow has a good deal of the habit of the “Jenny Wren” of England, dodging in and out of a faggot heap. During the breeding season it has a habit of rising in the air singing, and drops down again like a stone. It generally builds at the foot of an alder bush, and successfully raises a large family.

NASHVILLE WARBLER—(*Sylvicola rubricapilla*).—I have always observed this species singing on the very topmost branches of trees. It is very wild and difficult to shoot, and is not very common.

Having now arrived, gentlemen, at the end of my present list, I must state that all the facts I have given may be safely relied upon, as they are the result of forty years’ experience in bird life. And I would here, as it is the very first time I have ever appeared as a reader in public, take the opportunity of counselling the young men of Halifax to take more interest than they do in the natural history of their country. Many an hour now passed in walking up and down Granville Street in tight boots, might be devoted far more profitably to studying the quiet scenes of nature. If I had listened to the advice given me by the young men of my time, I do not think I should have had the pleasure of appearing here this evening; and instead of being happy, as I now am, in the presence of my brother



naturalists, and possessed of a cheerful home to which I can retire, surrounded by my feathered favorites, I should most probably either have descended to an early grave, or been the habitual frequenter of the tobacco and dram shops. No; the country for me, before all the grandeur and pleasure of the town. Old Waterton once said to me, he would sooner be in the woods than in the finest palace in Europe.

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ART. VI. OBSERVATIONS ON THE SEA-BIRDS FREQUENTING THE COAST OF ST. MARGARET'S BAY, N. S. BY REV. JOHN AMBROSE.

[Read Jan'y 9, 1865.]

FOR the convenience of persons wishing to make enquiries of our fishermen, or desirous of obtaining specimens from them, I give the names by which they distinguish the sea-birds with which they are familiar, together with the scientific equivalents of those names, so far as I have been able to identify them :—

LOON—(*Colymbus glacialis.*)

SEA-DUCK—EIDER—(*Anas mollissima.*)

BOTTLE-NOSE DRAKE—KING EIDER—(*Fuligula spectabilis.*)

COOT, BLACK—COMMON SCOTER—(*Anas nigra.*)

COOT, BOTTLE-NOSE—SURF SCOTER—(*A. perspicillata.*)

PARROT—PUFFIN—(*Mormon fratercula.*)

MURR.

TURR.

LORD or IMP—HARLEQUIN DUCK—(*Anas histrionica.*)

COCKAWEE—LONG-TAILED DUCK—(*A. glacialis.*)

HAG-DOWN—MANX SHEARWATER—(*Procellaria Puffinus.*)

SHELL-DRAKE—(*Anas tadorna.*)

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER—(*Mergus serrator.*)

GREY DIPPER.

WHITE DIPPER.

BLACK DUCK—(*Anas boschas.*)

COMMON TEAL—(*Anas Crecca.*)

SEA PIGEON.

LITTLE AUK—ROTCHÉ—(*Uria minor.*)

STORM PETREL—(*Thalassidroma pelagica.*)

CANADA GOOSE—(*Anser Canadensis.*)