

EUROPEAN HARE AT COLLINGWOOD.—On June 9, 1928, a European Hare was seen by Dr. Paul Harrington and me at the edge of a small extent of woods at Collingwood, on the south shore of Georgian bay. The hare was watched at close range, where its large size and characteristic markings could be observed. This shows the animal to have reached Georgian bay and it will be interesting to follow its spread in Ontario. On the same day a Cottontail and a Varying Hare were seen.—JAS. L. BAILLIE, JR.

AN EARLY DATE FOR THE GRASSHOPPER SPARROW AT TORONTO, ONTARIO.—The Grasshopper Sparrow is locally not uncommon in the Toronto region during some summers.¹ The irregularity of its occurrence however gives it the status of a rare bird and little data is available concerning the dates of its arrival and de-

parture. The earliest spring record for Toronto is a specimen in the Museum's collection taken at Ashbridge's Bay by John Edmonds on May 24, 1890.²

The average date of arrival of the species in the London region is May 10, the observations covering a period of seventeen years, the earliest date is April 7, 1921.³

On April 7, 1928, the writer secured a singing male at Ashbridge's Bay, Toronto. This specimen by coincidence gives Toronto an early date equal to the London record made seven years previous.—L. L. SNYDER, *Royal Ontario Museum of Zoology, Toronto*.

¹ THOMPSON, STUART L., *Occurrence of Grasshopper Sparrow at Toronto, Ontario. The Canadian Field-Naturalist*, Vol. XLI, No. 4, pp. 88, 89.

² FLEMING, JAMES H., *Birds of Toronto, Canada, Auk*, Vol. XXIV, No. 1, p. 80.

³ McIlwraith Ornithological Club, *Spring Arrival Dates of Birds of London District, 1927*.

BOOK REVIEWS

FUR-FARMING FOR PROFIT, by Frank G. Ashbrook in charge, *Division of Fur Resources, Bureau of Biological Survey, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C.* New York: The Macmillan Company, 1928. All rights reserved. pp. i-xxiii, 1-300, 127 illustrations. (Issued by The Macmillans in Canada, St. Martin's House, Toronto, price \$4.50).

This is a book from the "Rural Science Series" which is of much interest to Canadians. Canada has long been among the leaders of fur-producing countries, and every province shares in the benefits of this natural raw fur production. The natural range of many of our most valuable furbearers has been reduced or destroyed by the spread of lumbering and agriculture. In connection with the enormously increased demands and consequently higher prices during recent years trappers and fur-traders have penetrated the most inaccessible and remote regions with supplies, weapons and traps of deadly efficiency. In spite of protective regulations and nominal supervision of wild life, high prices for fur establish in effect a bounty on the heads of some of our most valuable species. Their existence hangs on a whim of fashion, and it becomes more and more doubtful whether some of these species can be preserved for long in a wild state.

The solution of the problem of maintaining a steady annual supply of the furs which are desirable for comfort in a cold climate and an adjunct

of fashion elsewhere, appears to rest in the development of the fur-farming industry, and in this work Canada, and particularly the Province of Prince Edward Island, has been a pioneer. With the initial advantage of a climate suitable for the growth of a superior quality of fur, Canadians have the best opportunities for success in this line. Beginning with scattered individuals, many of them working in a secretive and non-co-operative manner, the industry has spread rapidly and worked through a period of wild-cat speculation. Various publications have been issued by fur-farmers or dealers for propaganda purposes and for selling both breeding stock and paper stock in companies, and the general public has been confused with many varying ideas.

The Commission of Conservation in Canada, in 1913, issued a valuable book on "Fur-farming in Canada", by J. Walter Jones, sketching the history of the industry up to that time, but great progress has been made since in development of practical and economical methods of handling, control of animal diseases, improved methods and uniformity of pelting, and the marketing of pelts. The breeders are more inclined to co-operate than formerly, breeders' associations have been formed for mutual assistance, and pedigrees of stock are registered.

As fox-farming is the most important and the



Snyder, L. L. 1928. "An Early Date for the Grasshopper Sparrow at Toronto, Ontario." *The Canadian field-naturalist* 42(7), 179–179.

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