

located in Iowa, but originally dwelt along the west shore of Lake Michigan. That the Ojibwa, who occupy territory between the Cree and the Fox, should originally have lacked this character in their mythology is somewhat surprising, but is corroborated by the linguistic evidence, which indicates that the Fox language is more closely related to the Cree than is the geographically less remote Ojibwa. The English term was evidently derived from some Algonkian tribe, in all likelihood an Algonquin or Saukteaux band, among whom the identification of the culture-hero with the Canada jay was current.

The meaning of the term Wisagatchak seems to be doubtful. In his "Dictionnaire de la Langue des Cris,"[‡] Father A. Lacombe does not attempt to give any etymology for Wisakketjâk, but merely defines the term as 'legendary man of the various tribes of the North, to whom they attribute supernatural power with a great number of tricks, turns,

and follies. He is regarded as the principal genius and as the founder of these peoples." What has happened, then, in brief, is that an Indian term of obscure meaning, employed to refer to an important mythological being, was, in a limited area, identified with the Canada jay and that this term was then borrowed by the whites as the common name of the jay and finally refashioned into a make-believe English word.

Curiously analogous is the history of the French word *renard* "fox". This word is not of native Romance stock but is merely a French application of the favorite mediæval trickster Reynard, identified in folk-lore with the fox. The term itself is of Germanic origin and appears in many different forms. Among them are the modern German name Reinhart, and the Dutch and Flemish Reinecke or Reinke.

E. SAPIR.

BOOK NOTICES.

LESSONS ON WEEDS. Manitoba Farmers' Library, Extension Bulletin No. 30. Thirty "Extension Bulletins" have already been issued by the Manitoba Department of Agriculture under the general title of 'The Manitoba Farmers' Library' which is devoted to the extension of information on agricultural and sanitary matters and is distributed free among the people of Manitoba. These bulletins cover a wide field and several of them are of special interest and value to field-naturalists, notably No. 23, "Our Friends the Birds," No. 25, "Gophers and Squirrels in Manitoba," and No. 30, the most recently published, "Lessons on Weeds," a pamphlet of 50 pages and many illustrations. All three of the bulletins mentioned above were prepared for use in the schools of Manitoba but are distributed free to farmers as well. Some fifty species of weeds are described and figured, the descriptions including in most instances notes on the mode of reproduction and very full instructions on the best methods of eradication. Seven poisonous plants are described, including the poison ivy, and it is worthy to note that the only method of eradication mentioned is to "put on gloves and pull up the long woody perennial roots which creep for yards underneath the leaves." Perhaps the sentences of most value in No. 30 are these:

"Weeds waste water."

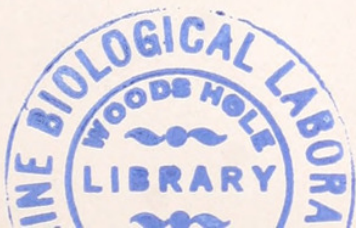
"A big weed takes a barrel of water out of the soil."

One has only to realize this and note the rank growth of weeds which so frequently overrun gardens to understand why in dry seasons so many amateurs are disappointed in their garden crops. A crop of weeds means a barrel of water per square yard, or 8½ inches of rainfall. Other provinces might well follow the example of Manitoba in the publication of such bulletins as "Lessons on Weeds" for use in the public schools.

THE HAWKS OF THE CANADIAN PRAIRIE PROVINCES IN THEIR RELATION TO AGRICULTURE. By P. A. Taverner. Museum Bulletin No. 28, Dept. of Mines, Canada, August, 1918. The work before us is one that has long been needed and comes at a time when its authority may prove an important factor in the preservation from extinction of some of our most useful birds. To the reviewer, who has spent much time and labor in an endeavor to show the absurdity of the indiscriminate slaughter of our prairie hawks, this publication is extremely welcome.

As Mr. Taverner points out, we have few really injurious hawks inhabiting the Prairie Provinces and of these but one, the Goshawk, is of sufficient size, or occurs in sufficient numbers, to be of marked importance in reducing our game supply. This hawk breeds but rarely in the southern portions of Western Canada, but when the food supply is scarce in the north invades our territory in considerable numbers during autumn and winter time.

[‡]Montreal, 1874.



More than one such invasion has taken place within the last 30 years, and on each occasion there has been a very marked reduction in the number of grouse. This is, of course, not to be wondered at when we realize that a single Goshawk has been known to practically destroy a flock of 50 sharp-tailed grouse during the winter. It is noteworthy that these hawks seldom raid poultry yards and in consequence are difficult to entice within range of a gun, but to those who have had experience, a flock of pigeons have proved to be a useful attraction to lure the Goshawks within range.

It is quite impossible to touch upon all the questions this publication introduces with which in nearly every case, the reviewer is in full accord. It might seem, perhaps, that undue value is attached to the Marsh Hawk which in Manitoba is rather a frequent visitor of poultry runs and moreover, in its juvenile state, when first learning to hunt for itself, destroys many immature grouse. As an adult, however, there is no question of its great value to agriculture.

It is to the buzzards, however, such as the Red-tail, Swainsons and Rough-legged Hawks that we owe our greatest debt. These are truly Gopher hawks and since they apparently kill more than they can eat it is probable that their value far exceeds the conservative estimate placed upon them by Mr. Taverner even though in the case of Swainsons Hawk there are instances of poultry and wild birds having been taken.

As Mr. Taverner remarks, the eagles are rare. They are liable to become still more so owing to the mania for collecting them at every opportunity. So far as their food is concerned, this is made up largely of bush and jack rabbits.

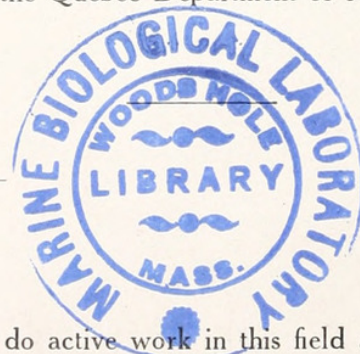
This bulletin is an excellent one carefully prepared and provided with several useful text figures as well as three colored plates showing most of the hawks discussed in different phases of plumage. It should be in the hands of every prairie farmer or sportsman and if carefully read should do much to dispel the prejudices which have been so widespread and which have indirectly been a far greater factor in reducing our crops than is generally supposed.

N. C.

DRAGONFLIES (ODONATA) OF ALBERTA. By F. C. Whitehouse, with two plates of illustrations. This pamphlet of 16 pages, published by the Alberta Natural History Society is a valuable contribution to the entomology of the province. 55 species are listed and a brief description of each given. A key to seasonal distribution is included, also a key to the genera.

TENTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE QUEBEC SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF PLANTS FROM INSECTS AND FUNGUS DISEASES, 1917-1918. This report of 92 pages has recently come to hand. It contains a number of papers of value particularly to the horticulturist or agriculturist, such as "The White Pine Blister Rust in Quebec," by Henri Roy; "Warbles and Bots," by A. E. Cameron; "Ants and Aphids," by Father P. Fontanel, etc. The report is published as a supplement to the report of the Quebec Department of Agriculture.

A. G.



OBITUARY.

ERNEST DOUGLAS WINTLE.

Ernest Douglas Wintle was born at Gloucester, England, June 29th, 1852, and died at Montreal, Que., July 19, 1917, at the age of 65.

In a letter from his sister, we learn that "he was always a lover of natural history", and coming to Canada over forty years ago he kept up his interest developing a good field knowledge in natural history subjects generally, but gradually focusing his attention on birds, and after nearly twenty years' close attention to the subject published his "Birds of Montreal" in 1896; a book that is still our only reliable guide to the birds of that region. Previous to this, Mr. Wintle published several articles on Ornithology in the *Auk* and other journals, but

ceased to do active work in this field after publishing his book, though his interest in Ornithology never waned, as is shown by his private correspondence. Mr. Wintle was at one time a member of the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club, the Natural History Society of Montreal, the Entomological Society of Ontario, an associate member of the American Ornithologists Union, and one of the advisory council of *Bird Lore*. Mr. Wintle was buried in Mount Royal Cemetery, Montreal.

I am indebted to Mr. H. Mousley, of Hatley, Quebec, for permission to use information contained in letters written to him by friends and relations of the late Mr. Wintle.

J. H. F.



Criddle, Norman. 1918. "The Hawks of the Canadian Prairie Provinces and their relation to agriculture, by P. A. Taverner [Review]." *The Ottawa naturalist* 32(6), 117–118.

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