river is frozen over, its mouth and the bay are still open. The city has built a long concrete breakwater along the water-front, about 50 or 100 yards from shore. This forms a lagoon which in milder weather is open and which is protected from the open lake's waves and so is an ideal resting spot for water birds.

Many times I have seen Great Black-backed and Ring-billed Gulls resting on the concrete wall where they were easily seen through field-glasses. On several occasions I have seen what I believe to be the same flock of American Mergansers feeding and sporting in the quiet lagoon. Generally there are two males and three females. On January 29 a fourth female appeared. All permitted a very close approach, but the one female did not follow the rest in flight. Later we saw her distinctly at a distance of a few yards, for she dived and came up close to us by the pier at the mouth of the river. There are generally several Golden-eyes here also, very tame, for people are often seen crossing Humber Bridge at this point. Once a small flock of Scaup Ducks were here and on another occasion I identified an American Scoter. I have never yet been sure of the identity of large flocks of ducks which I see farther out on the lake, but the Long-tail (Old-Squaw) is an abundant visitant here in some winters. It is probable that these flocks are Long-tailed Ducks.

NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

THE STARLING, Sturnus vulgaris, AT TORONTO, ONTARIO

The following note from my diary has been held, till confirmatory records of the Starling as an Ontario bird appeared. The date was August 24, 1920.

"While in my garden (Rusholme Road) about 7:30 this morning, watching for migrants, I saw a flock of seven birds fly west over the garden, and pass out of view, just clearing some tall elms across the road. I was at the east end of the garden when the birds were first seen directly above me, and I was able to watch them for nearly three hundred feet of their flight, and instantly decided they were English Starlings; the shape of the birds, their flight, and the movements of the flock were characteristic; and I had no doubt, while the birds were in sight, of their identity."

J. H. Fleming.

YOUNG WEASELS

At Bella Coola, British Columbia, on June 18, 1921, my attention was called by Master Wilfred Christensen and his playmate, Master Donald Morrison, to two shivering young weasels which they had found under some boards filling a shallow waterway across a wood road. They said a parent weasel had carried off a third kitten weasel, and they were keeping both parents away by flourishing sticks. Both parents were continually rushing out and retreating. After examining the kittens, which had bodies about five inches long, we all stepped back perhaps fifteen feet and waited quietly. Soon we heard the chirping cry of one parent weasel as it ran out, looked at us, dodged around a stump, and looked at us again. It then rushed to the young weasels, seized one, apparently by the ear, but possibly by the neck or head, and whisked it away out of sight under the boards and brush. In a few moments it returned and removed the other slightly larger kitten weasel in the same manner. The old weasel seemed smaller in girth than the kitten, but this may have been an illusion caused by the slenderness of the adult.

Harlan I. Smith.

DISEASED SHARP-TAILED GROUSE IN MANITOBA.

During the hunting season for grouse in Manitoba—October 15 to 22, 1921—thirty examples of the Prairie Sharp-tailed Grouse (P. phasianellus campestris Ridg.) were shot near the writer's home at Aweme. On being prepared for cooking two of these birds were found to be very thin and a post-mortem examination revealed the fact that the liver was severely affected by tuberculosis of a nature apparently identical with that found in domestic poultry. Whether the disease is really as prevalent as these examples indicate cannot, at present, be told, but in any case the presence of such a disease in one of our most valued game birds is a matter of considerable importance as it may well prove one of the chief factors in retarding the bird's increase. The disease may be spread in several ways, but it would probably make its greatest progress during the "dancing" period in spring time, when the males gather on certain small areas, or in Autumn, when the birds often collect into large flocks.

Norman Criddle.

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

The thirty-ninth Stated Meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union was held in Philadelphia,
November 7th to 12th, 1921, An unusually large attendance was present.

The business meeting was held the afternoon and evening of November 7th, when a “Shore Dinner” was given by the President of the Union to the Fellows. Amongst the Members raised to the Fellow class was our countryman, Major Allan Brooks, of British Columbia. A large number of Canadians were elected Associates.

Public meetings given to the reading and discussion of papers occupied the 8th to 10th. The Annual Dinner was celebrated the evening of the 9th and on the 11th and 12th opportunity was given to visit the Zoological Gardens and points of historical and ornithological interest near the city.

One paper on Canadian ornithology was read: “Some Breeding Birds of Saskatchewan,” by Mr. Geo. H. Stuart, who visited the vicinity of Crane Lake last summer.

Much of the pleasureable success of the meeting was due to the hospitable welcome extended by the various members of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club and by the Academy of Natural Sciences, which threw its doors wide open to the Union and in whose halls the meetings were held.

Among those present were: Messrs. Edward Arnold, Montreal; J. H. Fleming, Toronto; Hoyes Lloyd, Ottawa; W. E. Saunders, London; P. A. Taverner, Ottawa.

One visitor from England was present, H. Kirk Swann, who is visiting American ornithologists for the purpose of obtaining material for his Synopsis of the Accipitres, now in course of publication.

The next Annual Meeting will be held in Chicago.

LECTURES TO SCHOOL CHILDREN

During the winter of 1920 to 1921, the Victoria Memorial Museum re-established the old policy of providing a course of lectures for the entertainment and instruction of the school children who throng the building every Saturday morning. Many members of the museum staff offered their services for these lectures, and the Department of Trade and Commerce co-operated by providing moving pictures and an operator. In consequence, every lecture was illustrated with lantern views, and all but one with moving pictures as well; at this one living animals were presented. So popular did the lectures prove that they had to be repeated each morning to a fresh audience, as the hall, which has a seating capacity of 562, was not large enough to accommodate the crowds. In fact one lecture had to be given three times in the same morning.

The following is the programme of the lectures; a similar programme has been arranged for the winter of 1921-22.


Feb. 19.—“The Birds of Bonaventure Island.” By C. L. Patch.

Feb. 26.—“The Canadian Arctic Coast.” By K. G. Chipman.

March 5.—“Wanderings with the Eskimos.” By D. Jenness.

March 12.—“Roads to Wealth in Our Northern Forest, or Mineral Development in Northern Ontario.” By T. L. Tanton.


March 26.—“Ottawa Three Times Submerged and How We Know It.” By M. E. Wilson.

April 2.—“Conquering the Desert with Irrigation.” By Harlan I. Smith.

April 9.—“Asbestos or Fire Proof Cotton.” By R. Harvie.

April 16.—“My Summer Among the Ojibwa Indians.” By F. W. Waugh.

April 23.—“The Frogs, Salamanders and Snakes of Ottawa.” By Clyde L. Patch.

STRANGE ACTIONS OF A DUCK.

While on the North Shore of the Gulf of St. Lawrence in the summer of 1921, I witnessed what was to me very surprising behavior on the part of a wild duck.

The first occasion was at Natashquan, in the month of June, where I was then tenting with Harrison F. Lewis, Chief Federal Migratory Bird Officer for Ontario and Quebec.

The bird first attracted our attention by flying in circles over the harbor and shore quite near our tents, uttering a succession of low maternal quacks as it did so. While watching it, we saw it make several attempts or feints at alighting on the Government Wharf quite near us. We thought it was an American Golden-eye, though the total absence of the whistling sound made by the wings of this species when in flight as well as the subdued character of its distinctive markings made it somewhat of a puzzle, to me at least. After it had flown away we searched the rocks and barren in the vicinity for tree or stump where its nest might be, but without success.

On a day following, I was startled by the same bird flying down past me from off a warehouse built on the wharf, but as it was in flight before I saw it I could not locate its exact perch.

A couple of days later we embarked in the mailboat to continue our journey along the coast but

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