

5. RED-BELLIED SNAKE. *Storeria occipitomaculata* (Storer). — We did not take any specimens of the red-bellied snake but are including it on reports of residents who gave us good descriptions of it.

6. GARTER SNAKE. *Thamnophis sirtalis sirtalis* (Linnaeus). — This species is quite abundant all through the region.

7. SNAPPING TURTLE. *Chelydra serpentina* (Linnaeus). — Snapping turtles are common. In July, 1934, three small specimens were taken in the lake. They are often killed on the nearby roads while wandering away from the water.

8. PAINTED TURTLE. *Chrysemys belli marginata* (Agassiz). — This small turtle is common throughout the region.

NOTES ON INTRODUCED CAPERCAILZIE

By WILLIAM J. K. HARKNESS

February 6, 1937.

Dear Mr. Editor:

I have recently had my attention drawn to a notice of the release of eight Capercaillie in Ontario which has not been recorded. Although I have had this information at hand for some years, I have neglected to forward it to you.

I believe that it should be reported as it will doubtless be of interest to many people.

The Honourable Wallace Nesbitt is now dead. I have obtained permission from Mr. C. W. Beatty, 121 St. George Street, Toronto, to publish this extract from the Tadenac Club record book.

The Tadenac Club is on the Georgian Bay shore between Midland and Parry Sound, at about latitude 45°4' N. and longitude 79°58' W.

(Signed) WILLIAM J. K. HARKNESS.

Copy of entry for November 6, 1903, from The Tadenac Club Record Book:

"On this day were released eight capercaillie imported from Sweden consisting of five hens and three cocks. They were confined in large boxes during the voyage from Copenhagen which port they left about the 12th of October, arriving at the Club in good condition. The boxes were taken to the lagoon just East of Shanty Hollow and landed on the South side at about latitude 45°4' N. and longitude 79°58' W. The fastenings were then loosened and the party concealed themselves as well as possible and long strings were used to remove the coverings. On emerging one of the hens at once rocketed and took flight over the trees. The largest cock walked into the dense cover followed by one of the hens. The other three hens flew off in a moment through the trees. The remaining two cocks took each a short flight, one falling near the water, and thence running on into cover being apparently unable

to use his wings through weakness, the other alighting at once and running into cover. An informal meeting of the Club being held it was decided that the birds should have a close season till the year 1909. (Nineteen hundred and nine). The party consisting of Drs. Davison and Walker and Messrs. Mitchell and Mickle had an excellent view of the birds. The hens are a good deal lighter in colour than the ruffed grouse and nearly twice as large. The breast is ash coloured and general appearance like the hen pheasant properly so called. The cocks are magnificent birds 8 to 11 pounds in weight, old birds weighing more than 11 lbs at times and are of a glossy purplish black colour about the head and upper parts assuming much the colour of the wild turkey about the lower parts, beak is grey with a yellowish skin about it on the upper mandible. W. S. G. Beatty having offered to bet that in the year 1909 no member of the Club will see any capercaillie upon the Club property and that neither in that nor in the following year will any member of the Club kill one while at the Club his bet is taken by W. Mickle the stakes being a case of Burgundy to be provided for the deer shooting party of 1910.

(Copy of letter from Wallace Nesbitt, K.C.)

WALLACE NESBITT, K.C.
801 DOMINION BANK BUILDING
TORONTO

May 9, 1929.

My dear Professor Harkness:

The Capercaillie apparently flew to the North Pole on the first occasion they were disturbed and were never seen again, and I think the other party to the bet never drew Mr. Mickle's attention to it, and now payment of the bet would be prohibited by law. At least, Sir Henry Drayton would think so.

Sincerely,
(signed) WALLACE NESBITT.



Harkness, William J. K. 1938. "Notes on Introduced Capercaillie." *The Canadian field-naturalist* 52(3), 43–43. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.340037>.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/89087>

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.340037>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/340037>

Holding Institution

Harvard University, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Ernst Mayr Library

Sponsored by

Harvard University, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Ernst Mayr Library

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: In copyright. Digitized with the permission of the rights holder.

Rights Holder: Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

License: <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/>

Rights: <https://biodiversitylibrary.org/permissions>

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.