

REPORT OF THE ORNITHOLOGICAL AND OOLOGICAL BRANCH FOR 1887.

GENTLEMEN,—In presenting the Annual Report of the Ornithological and Oological Branch for the season of 1887, the undersigned beg leave to state that during the past season a considerable amount of work has been done but with very little result in the way of obtaining new specimens, only two having been procured. One a specimen of the Common Brant, *Branta bernicla*, which was shot by Mr. P. Thompson (of this city) last fall on a sand bar some 30 miles down the Ottawa River. This bird, Mr. Thompson informs us, he compared with the colored plate in Audubon's great work on Birds and found it to agree in every particular. The other was a fine female specimen of Swainson's Hawk, *Buteo Swainsoni*, shot by Mr. G. White flying over a swamp some three miles from the city. A pair of "Cacuwees" (*Harelda glacialis*) in the breeding or summer plumage was obtained last spring for a slight consideration by Mr. E. White from a person who had just shot them in the Rideau River. We might say, for the information of those who are unacquainted with the bird, that in the winter plumage the head and neck are white and the long narrowly lanceolated scapulars pearl gray; in the summer plumage these parts are black. As this species breeds in the north and is seldom found here except in the fall and early spring, it is very unusual to see the birds in the breeding plumage. On the 1st of November a small flock of White-wing Crossbills was observed feeding on some pine cones near the city.

On the 4th August several of the Common or Red Crossbills were noticed. As these are supposed to be winter birds it is rather surprising that they should be found here during the summer months, and the question naturally arises what are they doing here, and why do they leave the delightful climate of the North Pole?

Several specimens of the beautiful and rare "Cape May Warbler" have been obtained and also of the Mourning Warbler, which leads us to believe that they are not so rare here as had been supposed.

On the 27th August a specimen of the Common Tern was obtained on the Ottawa River, making the second found here within two years.



The following is a list showing the date on which the birds were first seen in the spring and the date when last observed in the fall.

JOHN MACOUN.
GEO. WHITE.

March 18th, 1888.

March	3—Crow, <i>Corvus americanus</i> .
"	3—Winter Duck, <i>Glaucionetta clangula americana</i> .
"	5—Horned Lark, <i>Otocoris alpestris</i> .
"	19—Mealey Red-Poll, <i>Acanthis hornemannii exilipes</i> .
"	20—Sharp-Shinned Hawk, <i>Accipiter velox</i> ,
"	21—Redbellied Nuthatch, <i>Sitta canadensis</i> .
"	21—Cedar Bird, <i>Ampelis cedrorum</i> .
April	2—Common Red-Poll, <i>Acanthis linaria</i> .
"	4—Blue Heron, <i>Ardea herodias</i> .
"	6—Song Sparrow, <i>Melospiza fasciata</i> .
"	6—Wilson's Snowbird, <i>Junco hyemalis</i> .
"	6—Pigeon Falcon, <i>Falco columbarius</i> .
"	7—Sparrow Falcon, <i>Falco sparverius</i> .
"	8—Robin, <i>Merula migratoria</i> .
"	9—Marsh Hawk, <i>Circus hudsonius</i> .
"	9—Purple Grackle, <i>Quiscalus quiscula aeneus</i> .
"	9—Peewee, <i>Sayornis phæbe</i> .
"	10—Baywing Bunting, <i>Poocætes gramineus</i> .
"	10—Whitebreasted Martin, <i>Tachycineta bicolor</i> .
"	10—Bluebird, <i>Sialia sialis</i> .
"	11—Golden Crested Kinglet, <i>Regulus satrapa</i> .
"	11—Cowbird, <i>Molothrus ater</i> .
"	11—Broadwing Buzzard, <i>Buteo latissimus</i> .
"	11—Herring Gull, <i>Larus argentatus smithsonianus</i> .
"	14—Yellow-bellied Woodpecker, <i>Sphyrapicus varius</i> .
"	14—Purple Martin, <i>Progne subis</i> .
"	16—Hermit Thrush, <i>Turdus aonalaschkæ pallasii</i> .
"	16—Redwing Blackbird, <i>Agelaius phœniceus</i> .
"	16—Meadow Lark, <i>Sturnella magna</i> .
"	16—Rusty Grackle, <i>Scolecophagus carolinus</i> .
"	18—Goldenwing Woodpecker, <i>Colaptes auratus</i> .
"	19—Swamp Sparrow, <i>Melospiza georgiana</i> .
"	19—Purple Finch, <i>Carpodacus purpureus</i> .
"	20—Downy Woodpecker, <i>Dryobates pubescens</i> .
"	20—Kingfisher, <i>Ceryle alcyon</i> .
"	20—Whitethroated Sparrow, <i>Zonotrichia albicollis</i> .
"	21—Hooded Merganser, <i>Lophodytes cucullatus</i> .

- April 21—Goosander, *Merganser americanus*.
 “ 21—Greater Yellow Legs, *Totanus melanoleucus*
 “ 22—House Wren, *Troglodytes aedon*.
 “ 23—Tree Sparrow, *Spizella monticola*.
 “ 26—Wood Duck, *Aix sponsa*.
 “ 26—Fox Sparrow, *Passerella iliaca*.
 “ 28—Dusky Duck, *anas obscura*.
 “ 28—Chipping Sparrow, *Spizella socialis*.
 “ 30—Fish Hawk, *Pandion haliaetus carolinensis*.
 May 1—Bittern, *Botaurus lentiginosus*.
 “ 2—Black and White Creeper, *Mniotilta varia*.
 “ 2—Chimney Swift, *Chætura pelagica*.
 “ 2—Rough-legged Buzzard, *Archibuteo lagopus sancti-johannis*.
 “ 3—Redstart, *Setophaga ruticilla*.
 “ 3—Summer Warbler, *Dendroica æstiva*.
 “ 3—Spotted Sandpiper, *Actitis macularia*.
 “ 3—Barn Swallow, *Chelidon erythrogaster*
 “ 3—Canada Goose, *Branta canadensis*.
 “ 3—Ruby Crowned Kinglet, *Regulus calendula*.
 “ 3—Golden Crowned Thrush, *Seiurus aurocapillus*.
 “ 4—Yellowrump Warbler, *Dendroica coronata*.
 “ 5—Great-Crested Flycatcher, *Myiarchus crinitus*.
 “ 5—Least Flycatcher, *Empidonax minimus*.
 “ 5—Red Headed Woodpecker, *Melanerpes erythrocephalus*.
 “ 8—Blue Yellow-back Warbler, *Compsothlypis americana*.
 “ 8—Black-throated Green Warbler, *Dendroica virens*.
 “ 8—Black-throated Blue Warbler, *Dendroica cærulescens*.
 “ 8—Night Hawk, *Chordeiles virginianus*.
 “ 9—King-bird, *Tyrannus tyrannus*.
 “ 10—Cat-bird, *Galeoscoptes carolinensis*.
 “ 11—Cape May Warbler, *Dendroica tigrina*.
 “ 11—Blackburnian Warbler, *Dendroica blackburniae*.
 “ 13—Goldfinch, *Spinus tristis*.
 “ 13—Baltimore Oriole, *Icterus galbula*.
 “ 15—Baybreasted Warbler, *Dendroica castanea*.
 “ 16—Surf Duck, *Oidemia perspicillata*.
 “ 16—Long-tailed Duck, *Clungula hyemalis*.
 “ 16—Pied Grebe, *Podilymbus podiceps*.
 “ 16—Least Sandpiper, *Tringa minutilla*.
 “ 16—Chestnut Sided Warbler, *Dendroica pennsylvanica*.
 “ 16—White-headed Sparrow, *Zonotrichia leucophrys*.
 “ 17—Ruby Hummingbird, *Trochilus colubris*.
 “ 17—Maryland Yellow-throat, *Geothlypis trichas*.
 “ 18—Black and Yellow Warbler, *Dendroica maculosa*.
 “ 18—Red-eyed Vireo, *Vireo olivaceus*.
 “ 18—Sand Martin, *Glivicola riparia*.

- May 18—Bobolink, *Dolichonyx oryzivorus*.
 “ 20—Canadian Fly-catching Warbler, *Sylvania canadensis*.
 “ 24—Black-cap Warbler, *Sylvania pusilla*.
 “ 24—Mourning Warbler, *Geothlypis philadelphia*.
 “ 24—Black Poll Warbler, *Dendroica striata*.
 “ 24—Scarlet Tanager, *Piranga erythromelas*.
 “ 24—Blue Jay, *Cyanocitta cristata*.
 “ 24—Rose-breasted Grosbeak, *Habia ludoviciana*.
 August 4—Red Crossbill, *Loxia curvirostra minor*.
 “ 9—Ruby-throated Hummingbird, *Trochilus colubris*.
 “ 10—Chestnut-sided Warbler, *Dendroica pennsylvanica*.
 “ 12—Swift, *Chaetura pelagica*.
 “ 15—Wilson’s Thrush, *Turdus fuscescens*.
 “ 18—Solitary Sandpiper, *Totanus solitarius*.
 “ 18—Least “ *Tringa minutilla*.
 “ 18—Night Hawk, *Chordeiles virginianus*.
 “ 21—Water Thrush, *Seiurus noveboracensis*.
 “ 22—Fish Hawk, *Pandion haliaetus carolinensis*.
 “ 22—Baltimore Oriole, *Icterus galbula*.
 “ 23—Purple Martin, *Progne subis* (Linn).
 “ 23—Sand Martin, *Clivicola riparia*.
 “ 24—Brown Thrush, *Harporhynchus rufus*.
 “ 24—Bonaparte’s Gull, *Larus philadelphia*.
 Septemb’r 1—Bobolink, *Dolichonyx oryzivorus*.
 “ 1—Barn Swallow, *Chelidon erythrogaster*.
 “ 2—Sparrow Hawk, *Falco sparverius*.
 “ 2—Killdeer Plover, *Ægialitis vocifera*.
 “ 3—Wild Pigeon, *Ectopistes migratorius*.
 “ 5—Red-headed Woodpecker, *Melanerpes erythrocephalus*.
 “ 6—Meadow Lark, *Sturnella magna*.
 “ 6—White-breasted Martin, *Tachycineta bicolor*.
 “ 7—Savannah Sparrow, *Ammodramus sandwichensis savanna*.
 “ 7—Bay Wing Bunting, *Pooecetes gramineus*.
 “ 8—Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, *Empidonax flaviventris*.
 “ 10—Blue Bird, *Sialia sialis*.
 “ 10—Whip-poor-will, *Antrostomus vociferus*.
 “ 11—Pewee, *Sayornis phæbe*.
 “ 12—Indigo Bird, *Passerina cyanea*.
 “ 12—Rose-breasted Grosbeak, *Habia ludoviciana*.
 “ 12—Scarlet Tanager, *Piranga erythromelas*.
 “ 12—Cedar-bird, *Ampelis cedrorum*.
 “ 13—Black-poll Warbler, *Dendroica striata*.
 “ 14—Golden-crowned Thrush, *Seiurus aurocapillus*.
 “ 17—Yellow bellied Woodpecker, *Sphyrapicus varius*.
 “ 20—Broad-wing Hawk, *Buteo latissimus*.
 “ 21—Black and White Creeper, *Mniotilta varia*.

- Sept'mb'r 21—Bittern, *Botaurus lentiginosus*.
 " 21—Scoter Duck, *Oidemia americana*.
 " 21—Semi-palmated Sandpiper, *Ereunetes pusillus*.
 " 23—Pine Warbler, *Dendroica vigorsii*.
 " 26—Red-eye Vireo, *Vireo olivaceus*.
 " 27—Common Tern, *Sterna hirundo*.
 " 27—Redstart, *Setophaga ruticilla*.
 " 27—Olive-back Thrush, *Turdus ustulatus swainsonii*.
 " 29—Catbird, *Galeoscoptes carolinensis*.
 " 30—Black-throated Blue Warbler, *Dendroica caerulescens*.
 " 30—Surf Duck, *Oidemia perspicillata*.
 October 3—Spotted Sandpiper, *Actitis macularia*.
 " 6—Sora Rail, *Porzana carolina*.
 " 8—Common Buzzard, *Buteo swainsoni*.
 " 8—Black-throated Green Warbler, *Dendroica virens*.
 " 10—Chipping Sparrow, *Spizella socialis*.
 " 11—Pectoral Sandpiper, *Tringa maculata*.
 " 14—Ruby-crowned Kinglet, *Regulus calendula*.
 " 15—Purple Finch, *Carpodacus purpureus*.
 " 16—Kingfisher, *Ceryle alcyon*.
 " 18—Great Northern Shrike, *Lanius borealis*.
 " 20—Song Sparrow, *Melospiza fasciata*.
 " 20—Yellow-rump Warbler, *Dendroica coronata*.
 " 21—Blue Heron, *Ardea herodias*.
 " 21—Night Heron, *Nycticorax naevius*.
 " 21—Shoveller Duck, *Spatula clypeata*.
 " 21—Titlark, *Anthus pennsylvanicus*.
 " 22—Sanderling, *Calidris arenaria*.
 " 22—Golden Plover, *Charadrius dominicus*.
 " 22—Marsh Hawk, *Circus hudsonius*.
 " 22—Red-tailed Hawk, *Buteo borealis*.
 " 23—Acadian Owl, *Nyctala acadica*.
 " 23—Fox Sparrow, *Passerella iliaca*.
 " 23—Sharp-Shinned Hawk, *Accipiter velox*.
 " 27—White-throated Sparrow, *Zonotrichia albicollis*.
 " 31—Common Red-Poll, *Acanthis linaria*.
 Novemb'r 1—Hermit Thrush, *Turdus aonulaschkae pallasii*.
 " 1—Whitewing Crossbill, *Loxia leucoptera*.
 " 1—Cowbird, *Molothrus ater*.
 " 2—Goldenwing Woodpecker, *Colaptes auratus*.
 " 3—Greater Yellow-legs, *Totanus melanoleucus*.
 " 3—Wood Duck, *Aix sponsa*.
 " 3—Rusty Grackle, *Scolecophagus carolinus*.
 " 4—White-headed Sparrow, *Zonotrichia leucophrys*.
 " 5—Red-breasted Nuthatch, *Sitta canadensis*.
 " 7—Goldfinch, *Spinus tristis*.

- Novem'r 10—Junco, *Junco hyemalis*.
 “ 12—Pigeon Falcon, *Falco columbarius*.
 “ 12—Golden-crown Kinglet, *Regulus satrapa*.
 “ 12—Purple Grackle, *Quiscalus quiscula æneus*.
 “ 17—Tree Sparrow, *Spizella monticola*.
 “ 17—Pine Finch, *Spinus pinus*.
 “ 17—Blue Jay, *Cyanocitta cristata*.
 “ 17—White-bellied Nuthatch, *Sitta carolinensis*.
 “ 25—Robin, *Merula migratoria*.
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REPORT OF THE ORNITHOLOGICAL BRANCH FOR SPRING OF 1888.

In making up the Report of the proceedings and researches of this branch during the past spring, the leaders have decided to adopt the example set by the Department of Agriculture at Washington, D.C., that is, to make a report of the spring work in time to be published in the July number of the OTTAWA NATURALIST, and to make a separate report for the work done in the fall. The leaders are able to report the capture of several specimens of the “*Hydrochelidon nigra surinamensis*,” a species that has not yet been reported in this vicinity. Among the rarer birds captured are several “White Wing Crossbills,” a species which is becoming rather scarce near the city; also a fine specimen of the “Tennessee warbler.” On the 21st of March a Bald Eagle was seen flying low over the Rifle Range, the white head and tail giving it a very conspicuous appearance in the bright sun light.

JOHN MACOUN.
GEO. WHITE.

Ottawa, June 30th 1888.

- January 28—Pine Siskin, *Spinus pinus*.
 February 7—Goshawk, *Accipiter atricapillus*.
 “ 18—Pine Gosbeak, *Pinicola enucleator*.
 “ 18—White-wing Crossbill, *Loxia leucoptera*.
 “ 21—Sharp-shinned Hawk, *Accipiter velox*.
 “ 22—Crow, *Corvus americanus*.
 “ 22—Horned Lark, *Otocaris alpestris*.
 March 6—Common Red-poll, *Acanthis linaria*.
 “ 8—Hoary Red-poll, *Acanthis hornemannii exilipes*.
 “ 10—Purple Finch, *Carpodacus purpurens*.
 “ 11—Red Crossbill, *Loxia curvirostra minor*.



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