

manner as to make the audience wish they could at once go to the woods and put the president's precepts into practice. The germination of seeds and the important part played by the cotyledons was illustrated by a good supply of young plants of turnips, peas and wheat, which had all been grown specially for the purpose.

The interest shown in the subjects presented by the full attendance at these afternoon lectures is a source of great encouragement to the council, who trust that a lasting result will be shown by increased efforts during the coming season to work up the natural history of the district.

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REPORT OF THE ORNITHOLOGICAL AND COLOGICAL BRANCH FOR THE YEAR 1888.

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READ ON THE EVENING OF 28TH FEBRUARY.
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To the President and Council of the Ottawa Field Naturalists' Club.

GENTLEMEN,—In making up the report of this branch for the past year the leaders have adopted a new plan, and instead of publishing the usual list of arrivals and departures of the birds they have thought it advisable to substitute the following synopsis of the year's work :—

There were five observers at work who made reports of their observations, viz. : the leaders (Prof. Macoun and Mr. Geo. R. White), Mr. J. F. Bowerman, Mr. N. Ballantyne and Mr. W. Lees. Prof. Macoun's list of 106 species (most of which were shot) was made during the months of April and May. Mr. White's list of 98 species extends from 28th Jan. to 28th May, and was published in the spring report of the Club in the July number of the *NATURALIST*. Mr. Bowerman shot at Ottawa, between 2nd April and 19th June, 47 species, besides 20 others in Prince Edward County not included in this report. The skins of these were, however, not preserved. The observations of Messrs. Ballantyne and Lees, who worked together, and whose lists of 101 each are almost identical, began with February and

extended over the remainder of the year. They were made altogether without the aid of a gun, the birds being observed by means of field glasses.

In all there were observed here during the year 142 species, of which 33 were noted by all five observers, 39 by four of them, 25 by three, 13 by two and 32 by one only. The result of these observations is the addition of seven new species (two of which await further confirmation) to the Club list, bringing the total number recorded by the Club up to 222. The additions are as follows :—

1. *Hydrochelidon nigra surinamensis*. Black Tern ; already noted by Mr. White in Spring Report.

2. *Buteo lineatus*. Red-shouldered Hawk : one shot at the Quarries on the Montreal Road on 24th Sept. by Mr. White.

3. *Otocoris alpestris praticola*. Prairie Horned Lark : this sub-species should have been recorded before, as it is a summer resident, whilst *O. alpestris* is a winter visitor. The present sub-species is rather common from about the beginning of March. Mr. White questions this.

4. *Acanthis linaria rostrata*. Greater Redpoll : Mr. White reports this species as having been taken here some years since, but for some reason it has never been recorded by the Club.

5. *Geothlypis agilis*. Connecticut Warbler : this species was observed by Messrs. Ballantyne and Lees : by the latter in the Mer Bleue at Eastman's Springs, July 21, and at Clark's Bush July 22, and by both at Dow's Swamps Aug. 5 and Sept. 2. As this species was only identified with the glass it is inserted as doubtful, pending further investigation.

6. *Cistothorus palustris*. Long-billed Marsh Wren : one specimen shot by Mr. Edwards, Taxidermist, on 21st May, and now in the Museum of the Geological Survey.

7. *Turdus Aliciæ*. Gray-cheeked Thrush : several reported shot here and in Prince Edward County, Bowerman. We see no reason why this bird should not have been observed here before, but as there is also doubt as to the identification of this species, it is held under query as in the case of No. 5.

Mr. Bowerman also reported *Dendroica Dominica*. Yellow-throated Warbler, as shot here by him on 24th May. This is a bird of the Southern States, and as it was not identified by a professional ornithologist and unfortunately the skin was not preserved the leaders do not feel justified in assuming the responsibility of recording it for the first time in Canada. It may be stated that there is a specimen of this bird in the Geological Survey Museum, but the locality of its capture is unknown.

The following birds were observed at somewhat unexpected times :

Larus argentatus smithsonianus—American Herring Gull—June 5. Usually appears here in April.

Corvus Americanus—American Crow—A few individuals remain here all winter feeding on the refuse from slaughter-houses.

Acanthis linaria—Redpoll—June 3. A winter bird, seldom observed later than March.

Spinus tristis—American Goldfinch—Has remained with us all this winter in large numbers; probably induced to do so by the unusual abundance of white cedar cones, of the seeds of which they seem fond.

Spinus pinus—Pine Siskin—May 2. Usually appears in winter only.

Amongst the new birds observed were :

Ectopistes migratorius—Passenger Pigeon.

Haliaeetus leucocephalus—Bald Eagle.

Falco columbarius—Pigeon Hawk.

Syrnium nebulosum—Barred Owl.

Picoides arcticus—Arctic three-toed Woodpecker.

Picoides Americanus—American three-toed Woodpecker.

Empidonax pusillus Traillii—Traill's Flycatcher.

Spizella pusilla—Field Sparrow.

Passerina cyanea—Indigo Bunting.

Lanius Ludovicianus excubitorides—White-rumped Shrike.

Vireo flavifrons—Yellow-throated Vireo.

Helminthophila peregrina—Tennessee Warbler.

Dendroica tigrina—Cape May Warbler.

“ *vigorsii*—Pine Warbler.

“ *palmarum hypochrysea*—Yellow Palm Warbler.

Sylvania pusilla—Wilson's Warbler.

Parus Hudsonicus—Hudsonian Chickadee.

The following birds, not yet on the Club list, we think might reasonably be expected to occur here. Our readers should therefore be on the alert and endeavour to add them to the list during the present year :

Falco peregrinus anatum—Duck Hawk—Follows the migration of water-fowl, and should be looked for in spring and fall. Rev. Mr. Young reports having seen it in Renfrew Country.

Megascops Asio—Screech Owl—Should be found in barns in the country in winter.

Calcarius Lapponicus—Lapland Longspur—Said to accompany the flocks of snow-flakes—*Plectrophenax nivalis*—seen here at the beginning and end of winter.

In conclusion, the leaders think that they may fairly congratulate the Club on the character of the work done in this branch during the year. At the same time they would direct the attention of the members to the great importance of having carried on by as many as possible of them during the coming summer a series of careful observations on the migration, food, breeding and other habits of the birds of this locality.

JOHN MACOUN,
GEORGE R. WHITE,
Leaders.

Ottawa, 26th February, 1889.

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REPORT OF THE BOTANICAL BRANCH FOR 1888-9.

During the past season the amount of work done in this section has been decidedly less satisfactory than in recent years.

The number of additions to the list, too, is smaller than in any previous year. The leaders, however, do not feel discouraged, and hope next year by extra efforts to stir up more enthusiasm amongst the younger members. The local flora now being published in the OTTAWA NATURALIST will be a great help to students, and the leaders trust that the members will organize early in the spring and make an effort to increase considerably the list of plants now recorded from this locality. Special mention, however, must be made of the work done by Mr.



Macoun, John and White, George R. 1889. "Report of the Ornithological and Oological Branch for 1888." *The Ottawa naturalist* 2(12), 149–152.

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