

Barren. Probably dioecious. Habit of *Amblystegium Sprucei*. On rocks at Canaan Forks, Queen's Co., New Brunswick (November, 1879). J. Moser, Coll.

Amblystegium tenuifolium, Kindb. N. sp.

Plants loosely coherent, green ; stems capillary, irregularly ramulose. Leaves small, far apart, spreading, very narrow, ovate-lanceolate acute, often denticulate ; cells dilated but elongate ; costa more or less distinct. Barren. Habit of *Amblystegium Sprucei*.—On the borders of a pond near London, Ont. (June, 1889). John Dearness, Coll.

Hypnum (*Harpidium*) *Moseri*, Kindb. N. sp.

Differing from *H. uncinatum* in the leaves not being striate, but sometimes recurved at the base ; costa faint, often failing ; differing from all other *Harpidia* in the stem being densely radiculose.—On the base and trunks of poplar trees in woods at Canaan Forks, Queen's Co., New Brunswick (December 30th, 1889). J. Moser, Coll.

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REPORT OF THE ORNITHOLOGICAL BRANCH FOR THE YEAR 1889.

To the Council of the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club :

GENTLEMEN,—The leaders of the Ornithological Branch have the honour to report that during the year 1889 two additions were made to the list of Ottawa birds, viz.: *Falco peregrinus anatum* (Bonap.), Duck Hawk, mentioned in the Spring report published 1st August, and *Somateria dresseri* (Sharpe), American Eider. A young male of this species, in the plumage of the female, is reported by Mr. G. R. White as having been shot by him on the Ottawa River a short distance below the city on 9th November. Another specimen (a male in mature plumage) said to have been shot on the Gatineau river, was bought on the By-Ward market, and is now in the museum of the Geological Survey. In this connection it is interesting to note the capture at Toronto, November 25th, of a male of the King Eider (*S. spectabilis*, Linn.), the first positive record for Ontario. A Cardinal Grosbeak

(*Cardinalis cardinalis*, Linn) was observed several times during the spring of 1888 by Mr. H. B. Small and others in a garden on Wilbrod Street, but was not reported to the leaders at the time. It has not been deemed advisable to add this species to the list in the face of the possibility that it may have been an escaped cage bird.

The Field Sparrow (*Spizella pusilla*) was observed in two different localities in 1889, and remained during the Summer, but in neither case was the female seen, nor was the nest discovered. On 13th July Mr. R. B. Whyte found a Sora Rail (*Porzana carolina*) dead in his garden, bearing marks of having met its death by flying against some object, probably at night. A Hudsonian Chickadee (*Parus hudsonicus*) was seen on 20th October, an unusually early date for the species.

Notes of the supposed observation of *Geothlypis agilis* and *Turdus aliciae* were inserted in the report for the year 1888 (Vol. II. p. 150). Neither of these has been confirmed, and for the present, at least, they are dropped from the list. Appended are lists of the departures of summer birds and the arrivals of winter ones.

Summer birds last seen :—

July 7.—*Seiurus aurocapillus*, Ovenbird.

8.—*Geothlypis philadelphia*, Mourning Warbler.

20.—*Habia ludoviciana*, Rose-breasted Grosbeak.

21.—*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*, Bobolink.

28.—*Spizella pusilla*, Field Sparrow.

Aug. 3.—*Contopus borealis*, Olive-sided Flycatcher.

6.—*Melospiza georgiana*, Swamp Sparrow.

8.—*Dendroica pennsylvanica*, Chestnut-sided Warbler.

8.—*Sylvania canadensis*, Canadian Warbler.

8.—*Passerina cyanea*, Indigo Bunting.

10.—*Tachycineta bicolor*, Tree Swallow.

11.—*Totanus solitarius*, Solitary Sandpiper.

11.—*Molothrus ater*, Cowbird.

25.—*Sturnella magna*, Meadowlark.

25.—*Chelidon erythrogaster*, Barn Swallow.

25.—*Icterus galbula*, Baltimore Oriole.

25.—*Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*, Black-billed Cuckoo.



Aug. 28.—*Progne subis*, Purple Martin.

Sept. 1.—*Agelaius phœniceus*, Red-winged Blackbird.

1.—*Myiarchus crinitus*, Crested Flycatcher.

1.—*Setophaga ruticilla*, American Redstart.

1.—*Petrochelidon lunifrons*, Cliff Swallow.

1.—*Trochilus colubris*, Ruby-throated Hummingbird.

1.—*Helminthophila ruficapilla*, Nashville Warbler.

2.—*Chætura pelagica*, Chimney Swift.

2.—*Tyrannus tyrannus*, Kingbird.

8.—*Clivicola riparia*, Bank Swallow.

8.—*Vireo olivaceus*, Red-eyed Vireo.

14.—*Vireo gilvus*, Warbling Vireo.

15.—*Dendroica blackburniæ*, Blackburnian Warbler.

15.—*Sphyrapicus varius*, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker.

15.—*Pandion haliaëtus carolinensis*, American Osprey.

15.—*Mniotilta varia*, Black and White Warbler.

15.—*Actitis macularia*, Spotted Sandpiper.

15.—*Dendroica maculosa*, Magnolia Warbler.

15.—*Dendroica virens*, Black-throated Green Warbler.

15.—*Seiurus noveboracensis*, Water Thrush.

17.—*Pooecetes gramineus*, Vesper Sparrow.

22.—*Carpodacus purpureus*, Purple Finch.

22.—*Geothlypis trichas*, Maryland Yellowthroat.

22.—*Ampelis cedrorum*, Cedar Waxwing.

23.—*Empidonax minimus*, Least Flycatcher.

24.—*Chordeiles virginianus*, Night Hawk.

25.—*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*, Red-headed Woodpecker.

25.—*Colaptes auratus*, Flicker.

25.—*Urinator imber*, Loon.

26.—*Buteo latissimus*, Broad-winged Hawk.

28.—*Vireo solitarius*, Blue-headed Vireo.

28.—*Sayornis phæbe*, Phæbe.

28.—*Dendroica æstiva*, Yellow Warbler.

28.—*Anas obscura*, Black Duck.

28.—*Anas boschas*, Mallard.

28.—*Aix sponsa*, Wood Duck.

- Sept. 28.—*Anas carolinensis*, Green-winged Teal.
 29.—*Spizella socialis*, Chipping Sparrow.
 29.—*Podilymbus podiceps*, Pied-billed Grebe.
 29.—*Contopus virens*, Wood Peewee.
 29.—*Certhia familiaris americana*, Brown Creeper.
 30.—*Turdus fuscescens*, Wilson's Thrush.
 30.—*Cistothorus palustris*, Long-billed Marsh Wren.
 30.—*Fulica americana*, American Coot.
- Oct. 2.—*Ardea herodias*, Great Blue Heron.
 2.—*Botaurus lentiginosus*, American Bittern.
 3.—*Quiscalus quiscula æneus*, Bronzed Grackle.
 3.—*Galeoscoptes carolinensis*, Catbird.
 5.—*Dendroica coronata*, Myrtle Warbler.
 6.—*Ammodramus sandwichensis savanna*, Savanna Sparrow.
 9.—*Troglodytes ædon*, House Wren.
 10.—*Zonotrichia leucophrys*, White-crowned Sparrow.
 13.—*Scolecophagus carolinus*, Rusty Blackbird.
 13.—*Gallinago delicata*, Wilson's Snipe.
 13.—*Ceryle alcyon*, Belted Kingfisher.
 14.—*Sialia sialis*, Bluebird.
 16.—*Falco sparverius*, American Sparrow Hawk.
 17.—*Circus hudsonius*, Marsh Hawk.
 17.—*Otocoris alpestris praticola*, Prairie Horned Lark.
 19.—*Totanus melanoleucus*, Greater Yellow-legs.
 20.—*Passerella iliaca*, Fox Sparrow.
 20.—*Zonotrichia albicollis*, White-throated Sparrow.
 22.—*Merula migratoria*, American Robin.
 24.—*Spinus tristis*, American Goldfinch.
 27.—*Regulus calendula*, Ruby-crowned Kinglet.
 28.—*Melospiza fasciata*, Song Sparrow.
 29.—*Troglodytes hiemalis*, Winter Wren.
 29.—*Spizella monticola*, Tree Sparrow.
- Nov. 1.—*Branta canadensis*, Canada Goose.
 1.—*Anthus pennsylvanicus*, American Pipit.
 1.—*Sitta canadensis*, Red-breasted Nuthatch.
 1.—*Glaucionetta clangula americana*, American Golden-eye.

Nov. 3.—*Regulus satrapa*, Golden-crowned Kinglet.

4.—*Junco hiemalis*, Slate-coloured Junco.

Winter birds first seen :—

Oct. 19.—*Acanthis linaria*, Redpoll.

20.—*Parus hudsonicus*, Hudsonian Chickadee.

29.—*Lanius borealis*, Northern Shrike.

Nov. 1.—*Plectrophenax nivalis*, Snowflake.

Dec. 22.—*Pinicola enucleator*, Pine Grosbeak.

WM. A. D. LEES, } *Leaders.*
JOHN MACOUN,

OTTAWA, 14th March, 1890.

During the discussion which followed the reading of the above report, Prof. Macoun questioned the accuracy of the results obtained by Mr. Lees's system of observation with an opera glass, and asked for a detailed explanation of the system. Mr. Lees explained that, having first acquired from a study of the commoner birds a fair knowledge of the characters distinguishing the families or higher groups, each new species met, having been first assigned to its appropriate family or group, was carefully scrutinized with the aid of the glass, and its markings literally read off and compared with one after another of the descriptions in the text book, till one was found to correspond with it. In this way the list of unidentified species in each family was gradually narrowed down till it became comparatively easy to hit upon the proper description at once. In many cases the bird had to be carefully stalked and followed for some time, and in some it was not until it had been seen on several different occasions that it was finally and satisfactorily identified, the greatest care being taken to avoid mistakes. Besides the text-book, recourse was also had to the colored plates in De Kay's "Natural History of New York," and to the mounted specimens in the Geological Survey Museum. He also pointed out that two persons working together, as he and Mr. N. F. Ballantyne had done, could give mutual assistance of great value, one holding the glass and

the other the book. Mr. Kingston, who also observes with a glass, stated that instead of taking a text-book to the field he noted in a small book kept for the purpose, the size and markings of each bird, following the same order in every case, and compared the descriptions with those in the books afterwards. On these explanations being given, Prof. Macoun expressed himself satisfied that, with proper care, there was no reason why these systems or either of them should not lead to accurate results. He also said that for amateur ornithologists they were much to be preferred to the system of shooting, so often followed to excess and without discrimination.

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REPORT OF THE GEOLOGICAL BRANCH.

(Read March 14th, 1890.)

To the Council of the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club:

GENTLEMEN:—In presenting to you the summary Report of the Geological Branch of the club's work for the year 1889 to 1890, the leaders desire to announce that continued interest in this line of enquiry is still manifest amongst many of our members. It would be very strange indeed if it were otherwise, seeing that the district in which we live is replete with interest on every side to the student of Geology. The field of our observations has been only run over, and whilst considerable work and good results have been obtained and wrought by members of our Club, yet, the region offers inducements on every hand. Whether we have to deal with one or other of the three great systems of rock-formations in this district, viz., the Laurentian or Archæan, the Palæozoic, the Post-Tertiary, each one offers enough material to be worked out and new facts to be developed and systematized for years to come.

I. In the Laurentian rocks of the Ottawa district, the mode of occurrence, distribution and genetic history of the crystalline limestones, of the iron ores, the phosphate deposits and the relations of these to the areas of intrusive granites, pegmatites and gneisses and





Lees, W. A. D. and Macoun, John. 1890. "Report of the Ornithological Branch for the Year 1889." *The Ottawa naturalist* 4(4), 65–70.

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