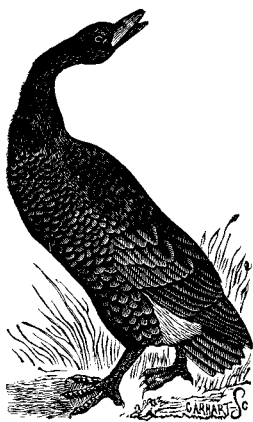


THE CANADA GOOSE.

Branta canadensis.

BY WM. G. SMITH, LOVELAND, COLORADO.

Here, upon the plains of Larimer Co., Colorado, is the winter resort of great numbers of Canada Geese. Small lakes are here very numerous; and as this is a great wheat and corn growing section, which furnishes them with a fine feeding ground, great numbers stay here through the winter.



CANADA GOOSE.

I do not think the Canada Goose breeds anywhere in Colorado; but I have seen many in Wyoming Territory, about 200 miles north of here during the month of June, and have reason to believe that they were breeding there; but had no time to investigate.

They arrive here from the North early in October, and are then very fat and well feathered. The Hutchins' variety generally precedes them by a few days, but *they* do not stay here in any great numbers through the winter, but after lingering a few weeks, pass on to more southern lati-

tudes. On their return journey north, they do not stay here, except to rest for a few hours.

During severe weather, when the thermometer registers in the tens below zero, the Geese will congregate on a large lake near my house and will by constant swimming about, with the assistance of thousands of Mallard Ducks (which also stay with us all winter), keep open several acres of water. At such times either the Geese or the Ducks will always be found at their post, as it is a matter of life or death to them then, the Geese go off to feed at early morning when the Ducks come home, and also in the evening, taking care to get home by dusk, as then the Ducks go out to feed, and don't come back until the peep-o'-day.

In the five years that I have resided here, I have never known them to fail to keep open a large piece of water, which, without their con-

stant attention would soon freeze over, and their only supply cut off, as the rivers as well as lakes are then closed up.

On this lake they are well protected and a shot-gun quarantine is rigidly kept up to keep off hunters ; but numbers are killed while passing to and from their feeding ground.

[Mr. Smith writes that he is not familiar with the breeding habits of the Canada Goose and therefore cannot give a description of its nest and eggs. We have tried to get an authentic account of its nesting habits, but have failed to do so, but we will furnish a full account in next issue from a collector who is familiar with its nesting and has collected several sets of its eggs. Ed.]

NOTES ON SOME OF THE WINTER BIRDS OF CHESTER COUNTY, PA.

BY W. L. MARIS, WEST CHESTER, PA.

One of the prettiest little birds, which braves the snow and rain of our ever-changing winters is the Chickadee, *Parus atricapillus*. Common as this bird is, yet how glad is the Oologist who has had the fortune to secure a set of its eggs himself, and how many are the weary although pleasant hours I have searched for them.

A few years ago, a row of evergreen trees, in a property adjacent to my home, were constantly occupied by a flock of Chickadees, and one would forget how cold it was, watching them playing with each other what seemed to be merry games. A beautiful set of six eggs of this bird, which I have in my collection average .60x.47 inches.

Among the foremost of our winter birds is the American Crow *Corvus americanus*, and a very noticeable one in our winter landscape. During the present winter, they have been very tame, often venturing within thirty feet of the house.

The Downy Woodpecker, *Dryobates pubescens* commonly called "Sap sucker," I often see pecking away at an old willow tree out in the yard. He is the dwarf of his family and may be distinguished by his size from all the other Woodpeckers in this locality. He is often disappointed as to his home, for frequently does an impudent House Wren, having watched the process of house making or rather excav-