

SOME NEW CANADIAN RECORDS FOR GYRFALCONS.

By J. F. WHITEAVES.

THE GRAY GYRFALCON (*Falco rusticolus*).

Through the kindness of Mr. G. F. Dippie, of the firm of Messrs. Mackay & Dippie, taxidermists, etc., of Calgary, the Museum of the Geological Survey of Canada has recently been enabled to acquire two fine specimens of this species, from Alberta.

One of these is a female, shot in the Knee Hills district, about sixty miles north-east of Calgary, by Mr. Alexander Wyndham, on November 10th, 1905. Mr. Dippie writes that he "would not be positive, but thinks that this specimen is an adult bird, probably three or four years old." Its measurements, when in the flesh, are stated to have been : length twenty-three inches, wing fifteen and three-quarters, tail ten.

The other is a male, supposed to be not more than two years old, shot twenty-three miles west of Calgary, by Mr. R. G. Robinson, on December 9th, 1904. Its measurements before it was skinned, were; length twenty-two inches and a half, wing fifteen inches and three quarters, tail ten.

THE BLACK GYRFALCON (*Falco rusticolus*, var. *obsoletus*).

Mr. Harold F. Tufts, of Wolfville, Nova Scotia, writes that he has a specimen of this dark, eastern variety of the Gyrfalcon that was shot at Long Island, King's Co., N. S., by Mr. O. Fullerton, on the eighth of June, 1898. It is an immature female, and its stomach was empty when the bird was killed. A living Black Gyrfalcon was observed near Wolfville by Mr. Tufts on December 23rd, 1905.

In this connection it may be stated that a clutch of three eggs that are thought to be those of the Black Gyrfalcon, in the Museum of the Geological Survey, was collected at Fort Chimo, Ungava, by Mr. G. Boucher in 1897.

THE WHITE GYRFALCON (*Falco islandus*).

A female of this species, shot on the sand bar south of Ash-

bridge's Bay, Toronto, by Mr. Frank Otto, on November 20, 1905, is now in the possession of Mr. S. T. Wood, of Toronto, who says that it was in good condition and weighed three pounds eleven ounces when shot. Its stomach was empty, and its bill and feet were pale blue, like the bill of the "blue bill" or Lesser Scaup duck, but both are "fading out."

The three fine specimens of the White Gyrfalcon in the Museum of the Survey, are from the neighborhood of York Factory, Keewatin.

Ottawa, Jan. 9th, 1906.

REPORT OF THE GEOLOGICAL BRANCH OF THE
OTTAWA FIELD-NATURALISTS' CLUB FOR
1905-1906.

(Read : January 7th, 1906.)

The work done by the geological branch of the O. F. N. Club during the past summer has been for the most part of the usual routine character. One or more of the leaders have attended the various excursions and explained as far as possible the geological phenomena of the localities visited.

Interesting studies were made of the gravel and stratified sand deposits in the vicinity of McKay Lake. Numerous examples of false bedding are seen in the sand quarries and also strata lying uncomformably on the lower beds. These beds have yielded several well preserved specimens of a *Leda* sp., of small size. The overlying marl beds afford a good collecting ground for fresh-water shells.

One of the leaders made a careful examination of Strathcona Park and will present the information gathered in his address tonight. The excavations which have been carried on in the Utica of that locality have afforded an excellent opportunity for studying that interesting geological horizon, and it is fortunate that so much work has been done as it is not at all likely a similar chance will again offer itself.

On the visit to Fairy Lake the outcrop of Birdseye and Black River limestone containing the coral reefs or Columnaria beds at the northeastern end of the lake were noted and the Trenton for-



Whiteaves, Joseph Frederick. 1906. "Some New Canadian Records for Gyrfalcons." *The Ottawa naturalist* 19(11), 208–209.

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