

NOTES ON THE BIRDS OF OKANOGAN CO., WASHINGTON.

Any mention of the *avifauna* of Okanogan Co. would be incomplete without a general statement of the physical conditions. Okanogan Co. is pre-eminently a mountain county, so that in an area almost equal to the State of New Jersey the only level spots are the usually narrow terraces or benches, of the Columbia, Okanogan, and tributary rivers. The climate varies from semi-arid in the south-eastern portion to very moist in the glacier-scored peaks of the north Cascades in the western part. The vegetation in turn passes from the sage-brush and bunch-grass of the terraces and foothills, through the pines of the lower ranges to the dense fir forests of the higher altitudes, above which the bare *aiguilles* tower. Thus it may be readily seen that the region is one of transition, receiving as it does the hardest birds of the south-eastern sage-plains, besides an overflow from the Puget Sound region in the spring, and affording a summer home for birds which frequent higher altitudes.

The most important physical modification of this mountain county is Lake Chelan, which extends for a distance of sixty-five miles from the low sage hills of the east into the very heart of the wildest mountains of the Cascade Range. This provides a winter retreat for the hardier water-fowl.

The central station for the observations taken, is the town of Chelan, situated on a low terrace at the foot of the lake. The birds noted below represent all the species found under the head indicated, during a residence of fourteen months in Okanogan county.

SUB-FAMILY TETRAONINAE, GROUSE.

SOOTY GROUSE. *Dendragapus obscurus fuliginosus*.—The spring-bird of the lower foot-hills. They appear to move down from their winter home in the fir trees of the higher slopes, during the last week of March. At this time, and, indeed, until after the breeding season, they are quite unwary. The males, especially, appear so engrossed in their sole occupation of hooting, that they may be easily approached, and studied at close range—say thirty feet, if one is lying on the ground. One such I spied