

is evidently astray in regard to the tradition of the Robin picking a thorn out of Christ's head. Perhaps he confounds the Robin with the "Legend of the Crossbill," from the German of Julius Mosen, translated by Longfellow, as follows:—

On the cross the dying Saviour,  
Heavenward lifts His eyelids calm,  
Feels, but scarcely feels, a trembling  
In His pierced and bleeding palm.

And, by all the world forsaken,  
Sees He how with zealous care,  
At the ruthless nail of iron,  
A little bird is striving there.

Stained with blood and never tiring,  
With its beak it doth not cease,  
From the cross 'twould free the Saviour,  
Its Creator's Son release.

And the Saviour speaks in mildness :  
"Blest be thou of all the good !  
Bear, as token of this moment,  
Marks of blood and holyrood !"

And that bird is called the "Crossbill,"  
Covered all with blood so clear ;  
In the groves of pine it singeth  
Songs, like legends, strange to hear.

Scientific examination condemns *Turdus migratorius*, or Robin, for destroying a much larger number of useful than destructive insects, therefore, it does more harm than good to mankind.—TEAL.

Montreal, Oct. 24, 1881.

### CANADIAN BIRDS.

List of Birds obtained and observed by Professor Macoun at and near the City of Belleville, County of Hastings, Ontario, in the Spring of A.D. 1881, with remarks by Professor J. T. Bell, of Albert University.

The date given with each species is that on which the first specimen was captured. Several individuals of many of the species were subsequently shot, of which no mention is made in this list. The names are taken from "Jordan's Manual of the Vertebrates of the Northern United States," Jansen, McClurg & Co., Chicago, 1880.

- 1.—Jan'y 17.—*Plectrophanes nivalis* ; Snow Bunting. Very numerous before snow-storms.  
2.— " 18.—*Picus pubescens* ; Downy Woodpecker.  
3.— " 20.—*Scops asio* ; Screech Owl.  
4.—Feb'y 7.—*Agelothus linearis* ; Red-poll Linnet.  
5.— " 7.—*Piticola enucleator* ; Pine Grosbeak.  
6.— " 11.—*Picus villosus* ; Hairy Woodpecker.  
7.— " 11.—*Cyanura cristata* ; Blue Jay.  
8.— " 23.—*Loxia curvirostra* ; Red Cross-bill. Prof. Macoun saw a flock of these birds, but did not succeed in procuring specimens.  
9.— " 23.—*Eremophila alpestris* ; Shore Lark. Bred near city; young nearly fledged by May 1st.

- 10.—Mar. 1.—*Nyctale Acadia* ; Saw-whet Owl.  
11.— " 4.—*Corvus Americanus* ; Common Crow ar-rived.  
12.— " 18.—*Turdus migratorius* ; Robin. In March and April the stomach of Robins contain numerous larva of the carnivorous ground beetles (*HARPALUS, CARABIDÆ*)  
13.— " 25.—*Sialia sialis* ; Blue-bird.  
14.— " 28.—*Lanius borealis* ; (*Collyrio* Vigors) Great Northern Shrike. Prof. Jordan has restored the old Linnæan name *Lanius* in his later edition. The bird now winters here, and feeds chiefly on the English Sparrow; this indicates that the migration of birds, and probably of other animals, is influenced more by food than by temperature.  
15.— " 29.—*Melospiza melodia* ; Song Sparrow.  
16.— " 29.—*Anorthura togolodytes* ; Winter Wren.  
17.—April 15.—*Quiscalus purpureus* ; Crow Blackbird.  
18.— " 15.—*Passer domesticus* ; English Sparrow. Is spreading into the country; was observed building in a Lombardy poplar remote from the city.  
19.— " 15.—*Poecetes gramineus* ; Bay-winged Bunting, Grass-bird.  
20.— " 16.—*Accipiter Cooperi* ; Chicken Hawk.  
21.— " 16.—*Molothrus ater* ; Cow Bunting.  
22.— " 16.—*Agelus phœniceus* ; Red-winged Black-bird.  
23.— " 18.—*Sayornis fuscus* ; Phoebe Bird.  
24.— " 18.—*Junco hyemalis* ; Snow-bird.  
25.— " 18.—*Sitta Carolinensis* ; White-bellied Nuthatch.  
26.— " 18.—*Parus atricapillus* ; Black-capped Chickadee.  
27.— " 20.—*Hylocichla Pallasi* ; Hermit Thrush.  
28.— " 20.—*Sphyrapicus varius* ; Yellow-bellied Woodpecker.  
29.— " 20.—*Passerella iliaca* ; Fox Sparrow. Very rare here.  
30.— " 21.—*Colpates auratus* ; Golden-winged Woodpecker. Local name, "High-holder."  
31.— " 22.—*Regulus satrapa* ; Golden-crowned Kinglet.  
32.— " 22.—*Agialitis vociferus* ; Kill-deer Plover.  
33.— " 22.—*Tachycineta bicolor* ; White-bellied Swallow.  
34.— " 23.—*Regulus calendula* ; Ruby-crowned Kinglet.  
35.— " 23.—*Certhia familiaris* ; Brown Creeper.  
36.— " 23.—*Sturnella magna* ; Meadow Lark.  
37.— " 25.—*Spizella monticola* ; Tree Sparrow.  
38.— " 25.—*Spizella socialis* ; Chipping Sparrow.  
39.— " 26.—*Spizella pusilla* ; Field Sparrow.  
40.— " 26.—*Zonotrichia albicollis* ; White-throated Sparrow.  
41.— " 27.—*Passerculus Savanna* ; Savanna Sparrow.  
42.— " 28.—*Carduelis purpureus* ; Purple Finch.  
43.— " 29.—*Mniotilta varia* ; Black-and-white Creeper.  
44.—May 2.—*Thryothorus rufus* ; Brown Thrush.  
45.— " 3.—*Pipilo erythrophthalmus* ; Towhee Bunting.  
46.— " 4.—*Empidonax Acadicus* ; Small green-crested Fly-catcher.  
47.— " 5.—*Myiarchus crinitus* ; Great-crested Fly-catcher.  
48.— " 5.—*Setophaga ruticilla* ; American Redstart.  
49.— " 6.—*Lanius ludovicianus* ; Loggerhead Shrike.  
50.— " 6.—*Galeoscoptes Carolinensis* ; Cat-bird.  
51.— " 6.—*Sitta Canadensis* ; Red-bellied Nuthatch.  
52.— " 6.—*Sturnus nevius* ; Water Thrush.  
53.— " 6.—*Ampelis cedrorum* ; Cedar-bird.  
54.— " 7.—*Tyrannus Carolinensis* ; King-bird.  
55.— " 9.—*Dendroica aestiva* ; Golden Warbler.  
56.— " 9.—*Dendroica coronata* ; Yellow-rumped Warbler.  
57.— " 9.—*Zonotrichia leucophrys* ; White-crowned Sparrow.  
58.— " 9.—*Chrysomitris tristis* ; Yellow-bird.