

a special object of enquiry during his stay here. The most conspicuous regular bird is the Cardinal Grossbeak, and there is a bluebird of about the same size, of the most cerulean blue; the two flitting in and out of the monotonous evergreen juniper which clothes the hillsides add a brilliancy to the foliage, the brighter by contrast. A law of the Islands prohibits the killing of birds, and as a consequence bird life is very abundant. In the vicinity of the towns and settlements the English sparrow has managed to drive off to a great extent the native birds, but in the country their number makes up for the town's loss.

The fauna of the Bermudas as far as mammals and butterflies are concerned, is excessively limited. Two or three species of rats, a rare occurrence of bats, and a very limited number of butterflies constitute all there is. The fauna, excepting the rats, has been pronounced exotic, and inblown by storms.

To the botanist the Islands are a veritable garden of Eden. Most of our hot-house flowers waste their fragrance on the desert air, and the flowering shrubs clothe the hillsides with a beauty which the North cannot conceive. Everywhere may be seen the Oleander in every shade of colour, from white to crimson, while Cacti, Aloes, Bamboo, Night-blooming Cereus, the Passion flower and Honeysuckle find a foothold in the crumbling coral rocks or on the old stone walls which here take the place of Canadian fence rails. Very few of the numerous plants found here are indigenous, but so kindly do importations take to the soil and climate and escape from cultivation, that it is a hard matter to say what is a wild plant. Fain would I dwell on the beauty of the palms and palmettos, on the foliage of the Tamarind or the grand flowers of the Loquat, but space will not allow of this. Adding greatly to the semi-tropical appearance of the islands is the Banana, generally growing in every garden, and its successive bunches of fruit keep on ripening all through the year.

The climate may be styled that of a perpetual spring, the temperature never exceeding 90, and never nearing the freezing point. The air is heavily charged with moisture, and vegetation