

boil over with bubbling song with notes falling over each other in an attempt to get all out at once. It is a prying little busybody and not a nook or corner escapes its small inquisitive eyes and very little in the insect line its sharp, delicately tapered bill. Through the currant bushes it climbs and peers under every leaf, along every twig, then into the raspberry patch, down through the trellis and into the dark recesses of the phlox and larkspurs. The fence next receives its attention and every crack and joint is examined. Perpendiculars and horizontals, right side up and upside down are all one to it, gathering a worm here, a caterpillar there and spiders everywhere; and as it goes it scatters its bubbling song all over the garden. A flutter-budget and a Paul Pry, a busybody and a scold, but withal an important ally of the gardener.

I wish this were all I could say of it, but candor makes me issue a note of warning. If there are other small birds nesting near-by, watch the Wren closely. It is also a serious mischief-maker. This may be a trait of individuals, as there are rascals in all stations and walks of life. I hope it is, for Wrens have been known on more than one occasion to steal into the nests of other birds and puncture the eggs there. They do not eat the eggs, but seem to destroy them out of pure gnomish maliciousness. One is in a quandary whether to admire the little indefatigable caterpillar destroyer and merry songster or to wage war on it as a wanton destroyer and an enemy to husbandry.

TREE SWALLOW.

The Tree Swallow is dressed in a panoply of gleaming steel and white. All above is iridescent black with snowy white below. The female is similar, but with colours less pure and gleaming. Normally the Tree Swallow nests in old woodpecker-holes, in dead trees, preferably overhanging water, but always in the open. Its sweet little "*chink*", like water dripping into a quiet pool, is a pleasant sound and the gleam of its wings in the bright sun adds a most attractive presence to the garden. It has no bad faults that I have discovered and the number of insects it takes is considerable. The house should be on a pole in the open and from ten to fifteen feet up, though greater heights are not necessarily objected to and the box can often be set up from the house top if no more intimate situation is available.

BLUEBIRD.

John Burroughs has described the Bluebird (the eastern species) as "The sky above and the earth beneath", and the description fits it perfectly. All above is iridescent cerulean blue and the throat, breast and most below dull earthy red—"the good red earth". It is another bird above reproach and the

brilliant coat of the male, its mate's more subdued colours, its pensive notes, "*purity, purity*," and its modest liquid warble are additions to any landscape. Its nest requirements are quite similar to those of the Tree Swallow, except that it does not nest as high, often occupying holes in old fence posts not five feet from the ground and it is not specially partial to the vicinity of water. I advise every one to get a Bluebird to nest in the garden whenever possible. I have not succeeded in doing this yet, but in the less urban situations it should not be a difficult species to entice.

CRESTED FLYCATCHER.

About the size of a sparrow but with a longer tail. Wood browns above with a slightly reddish tail, grey throat and breast, and pale lemon yellow below; sexes alike, combined with a number of peculiar but not inharmonious whistles, these are the characteristics of the Crested Flycatcher. It is not very often that it comes to nesting boxes, but the unexpected sometimes happens and the writer has had this bird in his garden for two years—not consecutively. The first year of the Martin colony, when it consisted of only a single pair, Crested Flycatchers occupied the wing of the house opposite the Martins. Battles royal occurred constantly, but one was as stubborn as the other and both remained. With a larger colony of Martins the Flycatchers would have stood little chance. The Flycatcher's box should be ten to twenty feet up and if it is partly sheltered by trees as on the edge of a grove it will more closely approximate the natural habitat.

FLICKER.

The Flicker is a woodpecker and about as large as a robin. Valuable for itself it is still further useful as a provider of nesting holes for innumerable other birds. In fact the greater number of our hole-nesting birds, unable to excavate for themselves, are largely dependent upon holes made and abandoned by the Flicker. A Flicker box should closely approximate the nest he makes for himself—the Berlepsch type hollowed out of a section of solid wood is the best. He is perfectly able to make his home for himself and is, therefore, not bound to accept such makeshifts as other species are sometimes forced to put up with. It will be noticed by referring to the drawings that the cavity is gourd or flask-shaped with a round bottom. This type is not difficult to make. A section of natural trunk is first split and the two halves hollowed out with chisel and gouge to match and then firmly nailed together. A board on the top forms an entrance shelter and prevents rain from draining down the joint. The nest should be placed rather high, preferably facing outward from the edge of a tree or trees.