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than themselves makes it necessary that they should be destroyed when they take up their residence about our gardens, for it is there, and in our cultivated fields, that our insectivorous birds do the most good, and to get them there we must give them as much protection as possible from their natural enemies, and teach them that they are in greater safety near our dwellings than they would be in the woods. Birds of all kinds soon lose their fear of man if unmolested by him, and particularly if they find that in his immediate neighborhood they can raise their young safely. I know of several farms and large gardens where birds have been encouraged and protected from their enemies; to these places they return in increased numbers year after year, until nearly all available breeding places are taken up. On these premises the owners rarely suffer from the depredations of cut worms or other insects, and so find themselves well repaid for the little care they require to exercise on behalf of their feathered friends.

Bronze Grackle, better known throughout the country as the "crow blackbird," is, when in full plumage, a very handsome bird, and may be distinguished from the other so-called blackbirds by its large size and the brilliant metallic lustre of its feathers. Like the Rook of Europe, it breeds in colonies, and is gregarious at all times of the year. To the farmer, the fruit grower and the lover of birds generally, this bird is a nuisance; all that can be said in its favour is, that it is very beautiful and that it does, at times, eat a large number of cut worms, for which it may often be seen working industriously on the lawns and grass fields near its nesting place, but as against that it has a heavy record of crimes to answer for. They are early migrants, arriving here about the end of March and resorting at once to their nesting places. From this time until the oats are sown they probably feed entirely on insects, but as soon as the grain is in the ground they visit the newly sown fields and help themselves liberally, varying their diet by taking as many small birds' eggs and young as they can conveniently get at. I have on several occasions seen them attack and carry off young Robins, in spite of the vigorous defence set up by the victim's parents and all the friends they could summon to their assistance. The row made by the despoiled nest owners on these occasions, together with the frantic dashes they made at the robber, would be sufficient to shake the nerves of one of the hawk family, but the Crow blackbird disregards it all, and goes off with its prey.

As soon as the strawberries, cherries, etc., are ripe these birds display a fondness for fruit, and a persistency in gratifying it, that is maddening to the fruit grower, whose profits dwindle day by day by reason of the visits of these thieves, who will continue to carry it off until the young leave the nest. When the young Grackles can fly they gather in large flocks and roam about the country all day, roosting together in vast numbers in some marsh every night. The Dundas marsh, near Hamilton, used to be much favored by them for this purpose; it is at this season they do the worst of their mischief to the fields of wheat and oats. Not only do they eat an immense quantity, but as they flutter and struggle in their efforts to balance themselves upon the straw of the standing grain, they thresh out and cause the loss of much more. Nor does the cutting and shocking stop their ravages: they still continue to feed upon it, until the last sheaf is in the barn. In the Province of Manitoba where these birds are abundant, I have seen all the grain threshed out from the ears for a space of ten yards in width, round fields which had been selected by them for their feeding ground. In this Province they are rarely to be found in sufficient numbers to do as much damage as that, nor are they likely to become so, for although their chief natural enemies, the hawks and owls, have been too much reduced to be able to keep them entirely in check, yet their number is still manageable and may be kept so by the judicious