

inate slaughter and nest robbing. It is fond of orchards and it nests in trees of considerable size, mostly in a fork, the nest being bulky, rough outside, though compact, and not unfrequently lined with clay within. Its eggs, generally five in number, are greenish blue. It arrives late in March or early in April, according to the season, and leaves late in October, taking to wooded pastures and thickets prior to its final start. This bird is so well known that it needs no description.

Although its depredations on fruit trees, especially the cherry, are heavy, its splendid song and its usefulness in the destruction of noxious insects, makes amends for its fondness for fruit. At the break up of winter its thrilling notes, especially in the early morning are hailed as the overture to the great bird concert of the other feathered songsters to follow. The males are the first to arrive and in a few days the females join them.

It would be interesting to ascertain if any of these birds really remain during winter, whether such are not wounded birds, or incapacitated in some way for a long flight.—H. B. SMALL.

BIRD NOTES FOR SEPTEMBER.

Tame Pigeons Eating Chickweed.—The Common Chickweed (*Stellaria media*, Smith), is by no means a weed of frequent occurrence in Manitoba, but in some damp localities it is sometimes abundant and very troublesome. In September last, whilst staying at Manitoba House with my brother-in-law, Mr David Armit, who has charge of the Hudson Bay Post on Lake Manitoba, I had an opportunity of witnessing what I had before heard of the avidity with which tame pigeons in that locality feed upon the seed pods of Chickweed. The pods only were nipped off, and these were apparently swallowed whole. The birds seemed to spend a great deal of time on the patches of this weed which had grown most luxuriantly and was