

back as it was, and set aside till a more favorable opportunity occurred. While this state of matters prevailed, the birds must have been little disturbed, and would, as a natural consequence, congregate in greater numbers, and making due allowance for the habit of veteran sportsmen exaggerating what happened in their young days, there can be no reasonable doubt, that Burlington Bay has long been a favorite resting place for the vast flocks of Ducks, Geese, and Swans, which periodically pass to and from their great nursery at the north, but which of late years occur at more uncertain periods, and in greatly reduced numbers. A moment's reflection will point to the causes which have produced the changes referred to, foremost of which is, no doubt the great amount of traffic which is now carried on with steam and sailing vessels during the summer season, besides which, we have on the one side of the Bay an establishment for making gunpowder, and on the other a city with a population of 25,000 inhabitants. among whom are a fair proportion of amateur sportsmen; these, though they may not much reduce the number of the birds, yet disturb them at their feeding grounds, and have driven them to seek for greater seclusion, among the extensive flats near Chatham, and along the river St. Clair.

Among the land birds, similar causes have been at work to produce changes in the habitats of different species. We are told that before the heavy timber was cut down, and the girdled trees were yet standing thickly in the cornfields, woodpeckers, of different sorts, were much more numerous than at present, the large *black log cock* being often seen, and the strokes of his chisel frequently heard reverberating through the woods. I am not aware of this species being seen in our neighbourhood for some time, the last specimen having been brought to the market by a farmer about five years ago as a great rarity: they are now found in Canada to the north and west of us, and throughout the state of Michigan.

As the dense forest became broken up, and the cultivated fields appeared, a new class of birds took the place of those which had left; no sooner had the early settler raised his log house and planted his fruit trees, than he was visited by the Cat bird, whose great delight seems to be to nestle near a log-house on the edge of a clearing; the merry jingling song of the Bob-o-link was also heard along the fences, and the Blue birds, who delight in the society of man, found a nesting place in the new settlement; several species of warblers also