

examine these as they fall, every one is found to be diseased in some way. The poor Bullfinch has a bad reputation for damaging fruit-blossom ; certainly he does do harm, but on the other hand he does good by destroying many troublesome insect pests.

The growth of flowers beneath the trees, principally dandelions, seems, as it were, to be trying to catch the life-giving sunbeams as they play or flit about the grass. The patches of light are not still for a moment, for as the branches move to and fro they constantly let the sun's cheerful rays through, and one moment they make the bright yellow flowers brighter, the next they shine on the tall grass. *Cuckoo ! cuckoo !* cries out the bird, and when heard so close the call is almost startling. Cuckoos seem to delight in this orchard, and many an egg is safely placed in the nest of a Finch or Pipit cosily hidden amongst the branches or on the ground. The best time to see the Cuckoo is in the early morning, when the dew is on the grass. When walking in the orchard on a spring-time