

CHAPTER XXIV

BLACK THOMAS CATCHES A BURGLAR

THERE was a great commotion in this neighborhood on the first of April, for then the robins came back.

I never heard such a clatter of talk from any bird as came from Vox Clamanti, the head robin. Instead of contenting himself with saying, "Cheer up cheerily, cheer up cheerily," as the other robins did, he just screamed a great amount of information about where he had spent the winter and what he had been doing, and how the colored people down South had tried to catch him, to make pie, but he was too smart for them.

Finally he got into a quarrel about the Great War. "Of course, you know, birds," he said fussily, "that robins are the most important birds in the world, and the war was all about them. The bad robins in many nations per-