

TOWN BIRDS.

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After a year or two with little opportunity to be in the woods or on the waters where birds are most commonly found, one has not much to report of their doings, and hence I am constrained to-night to confine my remarks to "Town Birds." Everyone of us may see something of these as he goes about the city on his daily business, and to one who has not given the subject much attention it is astonishing what a number of species are found even in the busiest streets.

For the student of birds, as well as for those who have only a very casual acquaintance with them, there is always something new in store, even among the town birds. Seven years ago yesterday, near the corner of Maria and Metcalfe streets when I was only beginning, as they say with children, to "take notice" of birds, I came upon a flock of Purple Finches (I think the other name of Red Linnet, is a better one) and was thrilled by the brilliant colour of their plumage, which to my unpractised eye seemed as if stained by the rowan berries upon which they were feeding. Less than a month ago, at the same street corner, I saw my first flock of those erratic winter visitants the Bohemian Waxwings, and I do not think that either the lapse of years, or the number of birds I have come to know since those first red linnets, in any degree lessened the thrill of pleasure with which I welcomed another new acquaintance to the list of my bird friends.

The rowan trees along the streets and in public and private grounds, when in fruit, give us many opportunities of seeing birds which, like these Waxwings, visit us from the far north. Most of you will remember how, some ten years ago, the Pine Grosbeaks came down in such numbers, and were so apparently indifferent to the presence of man, that they might almost be taken by hand as they fed upon the berries dropped by their hungry comrades in the trees, upon the snow beneath.

Almost every neglected vacant lot with its crop of weed seeds attracts in due time its roving flock of Redpolls, or their near relatives the Goldfinches, for these latter often spend the winter with us, escap-