

of Ontario. These long limbs were thickly covered with the Hoary Polypody, and occasionally one would find the native orchids of the genus *Epidendrum* mingled with it. This fern did not appear to grow freely on any tree except the live oak, while its larger relative, *Polypodium aureum*, was found solely on the tall Palmettos, and always at a height of at least ten feet; and the ease with which short wet moss rubs off on one's trousers is a great discourager of climbing, consequently we failed to get a good specimen of this fern.

The winter visitor meets with very many familiar birds, and some few strangers in considerable numbers, but the conditions are so different to those in the north that it takes one some time to become facile in the hunt. Ninety-nine one-hundredths of the interior of Florida, as we saw it, is either open water, cypress swamp or pine barrens; that is to say, the dry land, with practically no exception, is pine barrens; and the name is well chosen. Occasional Live Oaks, Black Jack, and scrub Palmetto form the only break in the woods, and the almost absolute bareness of the soil is oppressive to a northerner. No grass, no weeds, no shrubs, no ferns—none of the thrifty upland growth of the north meets the eye.

Then where are the birds? Well, after sufficient search we find that they are mainly in the villages, where the plant growth is more varied and the food supply more abundant. In the streets of Tarpon Springs, on the Gulf coast, we could hear and see all day troops, couples and singles of the Florida Purple Grackle, and of the Boat-tailed Grackle, singing from the shade trees, feeding in the roads and in the yards, but in three weeks I did not get one chance to collect a single specimen of the Purple Grackle, and only one Boat-tail, very close to the town. This latter is a most amusing fellow. His song defies description. Some clear notes that might belong to a thrush, some grackle-tones, and a large variety of chuckles, crackles and grunts which are peculiarly his own, surprise and delight his new acquaintance. The male, while not really much larger than our Bronzed Grackle, looks so on account of his long tail, and at first sight one hesitates to recognize the female as a