

school students, who are expected to take up Nature Study, and who have rare opportunities of observing the bluebird (*Sialia sialis*), there seems to be a trend of opinion that the blue jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*) may be the bluebird. At a recent meeting, when this subject was brought up, it was found that one normal student had seen an indigo bird (*Passerina cyanea*), one of our blue birds that is very rare in the Maritime Provinces. Another student knew of a bird that had blue upon the back, but had a brownish breast; as it was not blue all over, it was not thought to be the real bluebird. Others wished to know if the bluebird and blue jay were the same species. Without a doubt many people would be surprised to know that we have over a score of land birds with blue coloured plumage. In some of these the blue colour is decidedly noticeable, in others it is found only as bluish reflections in the breeding plumage. A number of the waders and water birds have blue in various hues, on different parts, but of these we shall not treat in detail. The birds we will refer to in comparing the size of the different species are the crow, robin, English or house sparrow, and the goldfinch or thistle-bird, all of which must be fairly well known to most Canadians.

*SIALIA SIALIS*, the real Bluebird. The male has the upper parts, wings and tail bright blue, tipped with rusty in the fall; throat, breast and sides chestnut or rufous; belly white. The female is paler throughout; the upper parts having a grayish tinge; the throat, breast and sides paler. Slightly larger than the house sparrow. The song of the male (if song it may be called) is a melodious *chee-er-ie* whistle. In the fall the call of both sexes is a soft and gentle *tur-wee*. For a nesting site a hole in a tree, or a hollow fence post is selected, and occasionally houses put up for martins are occupied by this species. The nest is composed of grasses, with the finer parts inside. Feathers are often used in the lining. The eggs are pale bluish, rarely pure white, and number from four to six. The period of incubation varies with the season; from fourteen to eighteen days. The food consists of insects of many kinds, which are sometimes caught in the air after the manner of the flycatchers. For a number of years the bluebird was very rare with us, but during the last five years it has become quite common. The principle enemies of the bluebird are small hawks, squirrels and domestic cats. This bird arrives from the south from early April until the last of May, and stays until well on into October.

*SITTA CAROLINENSIS*, the White-breasted Nuthatch. The adult male has top of head and fore part of back black; rest of upper parts bluish-gray; inner secondaries bluish-gray with black markings; middle tail feathers bluish-gray. Female similar but