

behind, the outer anterior one being usually directed backwards. Of this order the most prominent family is that of Picidae, the Woodpeckers. One of the most conspicuous of these is the red-headed, black-winged woodpecker, or *Picus erythrocephalus*. This bird was much more often seen a few years ago, when bush covered the country, than now, but is still found in sufficient numbers to be familiarly known to all lovers of nature. It is slightly larger than the Hairy Woodpecker, to be soon noticed, and is easily distinguished by the bright crimson covering of its head and neck. Its wings are black, and are crossed with a broad band of white. It arrives here about the middle of May, and nests in a hole, excavated in a tree, fourteen inches or so in depth, and tapering gradually to its mouth. The eggs, five in number, are perfectly white. Some members of this variety remain during winter at odd times, but they are seldom seen here at that season. Generally, the red-headed woodpecker leaves for the south in early October. *Colaptes auratus*, the golden-winged woodpecker, or the Pigeon Woodpecker, and often known as the Flicker, from its peculiar cry when alighting on a tree, is common in this locality. It will be familiar to every boy as the High-holder. It is one of the most attractive of the family, and is beautifully marked. The male has a black patch on each side of the cheek, a red patch, crescent shaped, on the neck, yellow tail feathers, and a bright yellow coloring on the lower surface of the wings, while the back is brown and striped with black. The extreme length of the bird is about twelve inches. The nest is in a hole perforated by the birds in a tree, and contains six eggs, pure white in color. The Flicker feeds upon insects, berries, seeds and fruit, arrives about the 20th April, and leaves late in the fall. Two other members of the woodpecker family are yet to be noticed. These are the Hairy Woodpecker and the Downy Woodpecker. The latter

is almost an exact counterpart of the other, excepting in size, the hairy gentleman being the larger of the two. This bird, *Picus villosus*, is about nine inches long, is prettily marked with black and white, has a bright scarlet or orange patch on the back part of his head, divided by a band of black running from the crown, and takes his name from loose feathers on his back resembling hairs, and which give him at times an appearance of raggedness and a tendency to dissipation, of which, I feel sure, he is not guilty. He has hairs about his beak, too, although not "bearded like a pard." The female is destitute of the red marking, but is otherwise like the male. The Downy Woodpecker, *Picus pubescens*, has a similar red marking on the nape, but it is undivided by the black band, and he bears a striking likeness to his big brother, even in the markings on wings and head. Both of these birds feed upon insects and larvæ, and nest in holes in trees which they cleverly work with their bills when necessary. The female Hairy Woodpecker deposits five perfectly white eggs, and the Downy Woodpecker six, of similar appearance, but of smaller size. These birds remain with us "all the year round," and may often be seen in our gardens and door-yards during the winter. My family have hung bones upon a lilac tree near the kitchen door since snow fell, and placed chopped suet and cooked meat upon a board on a fence beneath it, and this good cheer is regularly visited every day by male birds of both varieties, and we look in the morning, as a matter of course, for Mr. Villosus, who must have the first pickings of the table, being the big brother, and for Mr. Pubescens, who invariably follows him, to as early a breakfast as they can get. They feed several times during the day, but with greatest punctuality in early morning, and just before sunset. Mr. Fenwick has made similar provision for feathered friends, and has similar guests daily. It is amusing to observe the