

it shuns the wilderness of the deserts and forests and likes to live in the vicinity of the dwellings of man.

This little brown and gray bird a native of Europe, was introduced into America but in 1851; the trees in the parks Brooklyn N. Y. were at the time infested with canker-worms; the sparrows were imported in order to rid them of these injurious insects; in a few years the birds became very numerous, so much so, that after having performed their duties as destroyers of insect pests they themselves became regular pests to the farm-lands of North American countries.

Caw! Caw! Caw! Another familiar bird this American Crow, and its "cawing" on sunny days in February is a timely warning that the long-hoped for spring season is now coming fastly on. It is said that the Somali Arabs bear a deadly hatred toward the crows; Mohammed the prophet, pursued closely by his enemies one day, hid himself in a cavern, he was perceived by the crows perched in the trees near by; at the time crows wore a light colored suit, when the pursuers came near the cavern these birds cried Ghar! Ghar! (cave! cave!) thus indicating the place where Mohammed was concealed. However the pursuers did not understand what was meant by these birds screams, and passed on. Mohammed came out and condemned the crows to wear a black plumage and cry "Ghar"! to the end of the world; and from that time the only song of the crows is the discordant "Ghar" or "Caw" we hear so often.

Later, when the spring weather has well set in, about the middle of the month of March, the American Robin may be heard singing a song of joy, because of her return to her home of last summer, whilst the House Sparrows sole masters of the trees and of the telegraph poles of the city for the long months congregate in numbers, and in their own noisy manner, try their utmost to expel the invader, but to no purpose; for in spite of Mr. Bully English Sparrow the American Robin starts to build her nest in our shade trees and lay her beautiful pale-blue eggs.

The American Robin is larger than the common sparrow, of an olive-brown color above. with a bright rusty red breast which gives it a resemblance to the common Robin Red-Breast of Europe