

Taurus.

Alpha Tauri is a first magnitude star. It is known as *Aldebaran*, is reddish in color, and is situated in a cluster called the Hyades. The Pleiades, with one third magnitude and five fourth magnitude stars, is on the margin of the map, over 20° north declination. The brightest star in the group is known as Alcyone, and has been supposed to be the centre of our universe, about which our sun and the fixed stars may be revolving in tremendous circuit. Beta (Nath) is near the boundary of Auriga, and nearly below it is Zeta, of the third magnitude.

Auriga.

Alpha Aurigæ (Capella) is a splendid first. Beta is a second magnitude. The thirds are Theta and Iota, reading from left to right.

The Sun's Course.

In the third week of May the sun will appear just where 20° is marked on the map, right below the Pleiades. On the first of June it will be just below the fourth magnitude star, under the word Taurus. On the 21st of June it will cross the line 6h. R. A., and pass close above the two third magnitude stars, Eta and Mu Geminorum. On the first of July it will be nearly below the next third magnitude star, Epsilon Geminorum, and two or three days after the middle of July it will pass out on the left margin of our map near 20° N. D.

Astronomical Notes.

Venus is still the glory of the western sky. On the first of the month it was near the extreme eastern boundary of the constellation Pisces, and in the neighborhood of Alpha (second magnitude), and Beta (third magnitude), and Gamma (fourth magnitude), of Aries, which were a little above or to the north-east of the planet. Greatest brilliancy, March 25th.

Mars is still in Pisces and will not touch the boundary Aries until about the end of the month, when it will be near after sunset.

Mercury passes from Capricornus into Aquarius, about the 15th as a morning star.

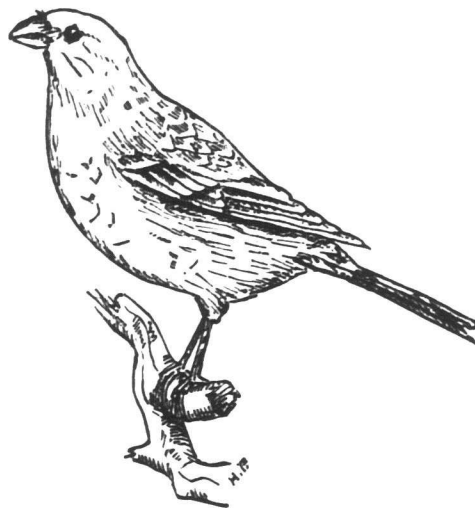
Jupiter will be in Sagittarius, a morning star, culminating about five and a half hours before the sun on the 20th.

Saturn is an evening star in Cancer, near the boundary of Leo, nearly in the middle of a straight line from Epsilon Leonis and Alpha Cancræ—near the latter. It is nearly stationary, but moving slowly towards the west and north during the month.

The moon enters upon the field of our star-map March 7th. On the 8th it will pass through the Hyades; on the 12th it will leave the field in Gemini, about 22° N. D. It will re-enter again April 4th, and on the 5th pass above the Hyades, leaving the field in Gemini a shade higher up.

FERNDALE SCHOOL.

No. XX. THE CANADIAN PINE GROSBEEK.



PINICOLA ENUCLEATOR CANADENSIS (515, A. O. U.)— $\frac{1}{2}$ Natural Size.

Do you ever think what wondrous beings these?

Do you never think who made them and who taught

The dialect they speak, where melodies

Alone are the interpreters of thought?

Whose household words are songs in many keys,

Sweeter than instrument of man e'er taught.

LONGFELLOW—*The Birds of Killingsworth.*

T. You have seen this bird which is so naturally mounted for us, and during the present winter, too. What do you call it?

CHORUS. Robin! Winter Robin! Grosbeak! Pine Grosbeak!

T. You should know better than to call it a robin. Its bill, or the color of its red breast should make that very evident. Sometimes we hear of the arrival of robins in our country newspaper, when some one has only seen a flock of the Pine Grosbeak. Its name indicates that it is most at home in the forests among the—

CHORUS. Pines.

T. Yes, it is a "pine dweller" (*pinicola*), it likes the tender buds of the pine and fir, and is also able with its strong beak to shell out their cones; hence it is a "nut sheller" (*enucleator*). It is slightly different from the European species, therefore it has been dubbed the Canadian Pine Grosbeak.

S. What does "grosbeak" mean?

T. What do you think?

S. Perhaps "great beak," because it looks so stout and strong.

T. Very good. Let us measure our specimen. How long?

S. About eight and a half inches.