

# Young Canada Club

By DIXIE PATTON

## WHO'S AFRAID TO TRY?

I see Tommy and Mary and Alice and Jack all shaking their heads and saying, "Not I." Of course you are not. I think myself that you are only just a wee bit slow about taking pictures but that you will send me in piles of them once you see what other little boys and girls can do.

A certain clever little girl has sent us in a picture of her little dog dressed up in doll's clothes and posing with his paws over the back of a chair. I hope it comes out well when we print it, for it is just as cute as it can be, and the little Canadian who sent it wrote us such a nice letter. But girls are not the only ones who can take pictures. One of our boys sent us in a splendid photograph of his small brother feeding the ducklings which I know you will like. Now what these Young Canadians can do surely you can do if you have a camera.

Now the question is, have you a camera? Will you try to earn one? Would you like to try picture taking? Write Dixie Patton a little letter answering these questions and you might tell what you think of the stories and whose you liked best.

DIXIE PATTON.

Address all letters to Dixie Patton, Grain Growers' Guide, Winnipeg, Man.

## THE HAWK

The hawk is a bird a little larger than a crow with all its feathers on. They make their nests on trees like a crow. The nest is bigger and not so deep as a crow's.

They generally lay three eggs. Their eggs are as big as a turkey's. The color of the eggs is white, some are white with brown spots. It takes over a month for the eggs to hatch. When the young ones are first hatched they are a little bigger than a chicken. The young ones are covered with a white fluff.

The top part of their bill is kind of a half circle while the bottom part is straight. When young they make a noise like a chicken. It is about a week and a half before they have feathers, and in about another week they can fly. When they are full grown their color is on the breast brown and black feathers under. Their tail is white, while on the top it is black. Under the wing it is the same as its breast with a little white. Its back is a dark color. Its legs are about four inches long and they have sharp claws.

JACK PATERSON.

## THE MEADOW LARK

The meadow lark comes here early in April and goes back in October or September.

The breast of it is a dull yellow with a large, black, crescent-shaped mark. The head is a brownish, slate color with a yellow stripe running down the centre and over each eye. The throat is yellow and is a little brighter than the breast. The bill is a yellowish brown and rather long for the size of the head. The back is a dark brown with spots of deeper brown, yellow and black. The tail is lighter than the back, with a few white feathers. The underside of the tail is brown tinged with grey. The wings are lighter than the back. The legs and feet are long. The female bird is of a lighter color than the male.

The bird is ten or eleven inches long and a little larger than the robin. It usually walks when on the ground, but when it is feeding and it gets frightened, it hops.

The nest is always built in a meadow or on the prairie. It is rather hard to find. It is built of dry grass and straw and there are only three sides to it. The eggs are of the average size. Sometimes there are four and other times there are six. They are white speckled with lilac and brown.

It mostly always eats worms, seeds and grain.

It can sing sweetly. Its voice is clear and piercing. It sometimes sings "Spring Is Here." Its favorite place to sing is perched on a post. It hardly ever sings when on the wing.

ADDIE ROGERS, Aged 11.

## THE ROBIN RED-BREAST

There is a robin's nest in our trees this year, so I will write about the robin.

The robin usually comes here early in the spring. Almost every year it comes in April. It goes south about the first of October.

The breast of the robin is a bright, rusty red, gradually edging into yellow or orange. The throat is streaked with black and white. The head is almost pure black. The bill is a dark yellow on the top and lighter on the underside. The back of the bird is dark brown and the wings just a shade darker. The tail is a brownish black with a white spot on the underside. Its legs are short but the feet very long. They are used for clinging to a tree or fence. The female robin is a duller shade than the male.

The robin is from nine to ten inches long. It is very plump. It runs, hops or

walks, although it usually hops.

The robin builds its nest almost anywhere, in trees, on some building or in old machinery. The nest is made of twigs, grass and strings. It is very carefully built and is not very clean. The eggs are a pale, delicate blue. They are of the average size and four or six eggs in the nest.

The food of the robin is worms, insects, cherries or strawberries. It is said to be very useful, for it devours all the worms it can find.

The song is clear, strong and sweet. Sometimes it is loud, at others soft or harsh. The robin seems to express its emotions in song. It is an interesting sight to watch the courtships of these birds. In the early morning the females will gather in the trees while the males "show off." The female then picks her bird. The courtship does not last, for often the robin leaves his mate to feed and protect the young herself.

I think the robin is one of the most liked and prettiest birds in Canada though some people say it eats more cherries than it is worth.

BERTHA ROGERS.

## THE SCHOOLBOY

"That intelligent looking boy there," said the pedagogue to the top-hatted parent he was showing over the school premises, "is Brown. I am proud of Brown. I have inculcated in him the love of learning to such an extent that he now prefers study to play. I expect at this moment he is writing Timmin's Latin prose on that sheet of paper there, while all the other pupils are at play. I will ascertain."

He called the lad to him.

"Brown," he said, "let us see the result of your industry."

"I—I'd rather not, sir," blushed Brown.

"Note his modesty," whispered the schoolmaster. "Come, Brown, let me see what you have been writing."

Still the boy demurred. But the schoolmaster insisted, and forcibly appropriated the paper. And there in neat imitation of feminine handwriting he read the following:

"Please excuse my son James from school today. He is wanted at home."



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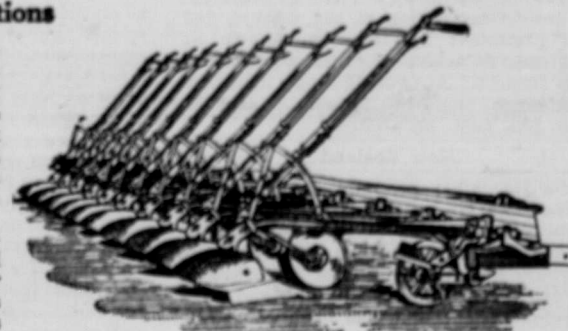
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