

Mr. Dunlop—There is also a work by Abbe Provencher.

Mr. Chapais—Yes; but Dien's work is the best by far. It is entitled "Les Oiseaux de la Province de Quebec."

Mr. Brodie—What birds will destroy the English sparrow? I notice some sparrow-hawks round my place, and they sometimes make a meal of a sparrow.

Mr. Jack—The common Canadian or American shrike will destroy the English sparrow. He will destroy anything he comes across.

Mr. Chapais—Everybody thinks the sparrow is a nuisance.

Prof. Craig—It makes very good pie.

Hon. Mr. Fisher—Is the Catbird a useful bird or the reverse?

Mr. Jack—I think it is a useful bird; it minds its own business pretty much. It is an insect eater. I notice it nests a great deal in the plums, and any bird that nests in the plums we had better try and keep. One of our worst enemies is the curculio, and he will likely eat that.

Mr. Dunlop—The Catbird is as fond of strawberries and cherries as the Robin.

Prof. Craig—Has Mr. Jack any practical means of preventing Robins destroying the cherries? While they like insect life, yet when the cherries are in season they like these just a little better.

Mr. Jack—You could draw a netting over the trees. I would recommend growing cherries that the Robins do not seem to care for, which are a Russian dark red.

Mr. Brodie—The best plan is to grow enough cherries both for the Robins and ourselves.

Prof. Craig—That is a very good plan; but I have found in my experience that the Robins are exceedingly careful to eat only the best. They have an inquiring turn of mind and, will sample a cherry sufficiently to destroy its salability without completely eating them. I have tried covering the trees with netting, and I think it is practicable, even if you grow cherries on a large scale, but you must indeed grow them on a large scale if you would have cherries with covering the trees. Two years ago we had nearly an acre in good bearing, and the loss from Robins and Blue Jays at that time was very considerable indeed, and it pointed to the fact that some good method would have to be devised unless everybody in the vicinity went into cherry growing.

Mr. Jack—They consider the Government farm as a Government institution and like to help themselves.

Prof. Craig—There is a bird netting manufactured in England which can be bought at a very low price and is sufficiently strong to protect the trees for three or four years. If we grow the Morello varieties, these close round-topped kinds, they can be covered very completely with a comparatively small amount of netting.

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