

they seldom are on account of continued exposure to weather. It must be admitted, however, that when large areas are left unthrashed for several months, as is occasionally the case, and left too in the stack that there is a chance for more than slight damage, though even then I doubt its being very extensive, and it must be incomparably less than is the loss by exposure to climatic conditions.

Now, let us view the other side of the question. In winter time the covering of snow prohibits more than casual ground feeding, therefore, it is those plants standing above the snow that afford or offer food in the form of seeds. What are the plants that are most commonly met with at such times? Answer: lamb's-quarters, redroot, Russian pigweed, docks, ragweeds, false ragweeds, wormwoods and foxtails, besides many more; weeds which take a heavy annual toll from the farmer. In addition to these the seeds of many grasses and wild plants are eaten, all of which are of small importance economically.

In spring time, before they leave us, Snowflakes have been accused of eating sprouted grain, as well as that recently sown. The former charge has undoubtedly some foundation in fact, though the evidence does not warrant a condemnation on that account, particularly as the sprouts are usually broken off, enabling the lower portion to grow again. As for the birds eating sown grain, that is an impossibility, when it is sown correctly with modern machinery. On the other hand it cannot be doubted that the birds pick up many weed seeds while on the fields in spring time, and so once again more than balancing any injury done.

Such is a summary of the evidence as it appears to me from field observations, and this has been amply borne out by the examination of stomachs elsewhere.

During the winter of 1910-11 my brother Talbot captured a male Snowflake with a damaged wing and gave it to his sister Alma. It was wild at first, but soon learnt to recognize its mistress, and in time the other members of the household, so that it would allow not only a close approach, but welcome them with raised crest and a cheerful cry oft repeated, sometimes followed by a call note when left alone. In July the bird commenced to sing, softly at first as if afraid of being heard, but later with a loud clear voice often uttered in our presence as if he were proud of it. He continued to sing on cheerfully for about a month and then stopped.

As might be expected, such an opportunity of learning something of the food habits of the species was taken advantage of, and so our "Snowie," as he was called, was fed, or rather, given all manner of things to test his tastes. He was fed as a