

about the 10th of April in great variety. The Cow Blackbird, like the Cuckoo of Europe, makes no nest of its own, but deposits its eggs, one at a time, in the nest of some other bird, most frequently in that of the Chipping Sparrow.

The Marsh Blackbird, found in the neighbourhood of the Humber and Don, is distinguished by the extremely handsome plumage of the male bird, and by the peculiar call of "quonk-a-ree," uttered by numbers of them together from dawn till midnight. The G'ak'e or Cow Blackbird, although its proper food consists of insects, etc., is most destructive to farm crops.

The Grass Finch, noted for its sweet song, comes about the 15th of April, and may be heard all through May in the fields and open pastures, where it builds its snug nest, usually under a tussock of grass. The American Gold Finch, small and elegant, with a soft call note like the tame Canary, comes in May. It sings very sweetly, the male bird being one of the handsomest of our visitors. They leave in flocks at the approach of autumn for the south.

A large family of *Warblers* visits us in May. A few remain through the summer, but the greater number pass on to their northern breeding-places, again to visit us on their return in autumn. Several of these are remarkable for their beauty. The Black Throated Green Warbler, the Golden Crowned Warbler, and, more beautiful still, the Blackburnian Warbler. Several others take up their abode with us for the summer, the best known—from its sweet cheery song, and its confiding disposition,—is the Yellow Warbler.

The most brilliant in plumage of all our summer visitors is the Scarlet Tanager. The female, however, is quiet in colour, and as a general rule they do not remain long with us. The

Crimson-Breasted Grosbeak remains here from May till September. It is shy, keeping much in the forest, feeding on seeds, berries and blossoms, and sometimes visiting the orchards when cherries are ripe. The Baltimore Oriole also comes in May; the male bird is brilliantly beautiful, with a clear mellow whistling note. The Oriole usually builds in a tall elm or buttonwood tree. The nest is woven in the form of a purse, and attached to the twigs by the fibres of wild plants or sometimes by a piece of string. The nest is about seven inches deep, and lined with horsehair.

The White-Browed Crown Sparrow, and the White-Throated Crown Sparrow usually arrive in May, the last has a singularly sweet note, and is most musical before rain or during showery weather. Towards the end of May, in the meadows or near the margin of a pond, may be heard the jingling, joyous, laughable melody of the Bobolink. Its plumage is a mixture of black, white and yellow arranged in piebald fashion. About this time the Thrush or Brown Thrasher fills the air with melody. He is usually seen on the top of some tall oak.

In striking contrast to the note of the Thrush is that of the Cat Bird; this peculiar bird is able to imitate the notes of many others, and may be called the Canadian Mocking-bird.

Before the end of May the Wood Thrush and Wilson's Thrush may be heard in the woods, at break of day, and towards evening, and in the field the sweet note of the Meadow Lark prevails.

The American Yellow-Billed and the Black-Billed Cuckoo frequent our woods all summer, and unlike the European Cuckoo, show much care and affection in bringing up their young, although the nest in which they are sheltered is rather a careless looking place, only a few dry twigs mixed with weeds and grass.