

The Rockwood Review.

reserved for companionable conversation, and about nesting etceteras!

Although the Tanagers' song has no great compass or variety of notes, it is emitted with a sort of "zeal" and fervour that harmonizes with the surroundings, and the sultry heats of the midsummer time.

Like the Tanager, too, a majority of the birds have their "Picnic" or holiday compositions, the accompaniments or attestations of their ecstatic woods. The Cat bird's "mewing" is sometimes a sort of "Billingsgate," or resentful invective, abruptly thrown in on his sanctum being intruded upon, whilst pouring forth one of his choice soprano fantasio's; and even the Vireo's when in the midst of their too brief melody, will evince resentment at any "Paul Pryish" approach of a listener, by sudden change to a series of cynically mewing derivative tones. Even such corvines as the Blue Jay have nearly as many varying pages in their song repertoire, as the capricious phases of an April day. Screams of warning and of terror, vary to glad announcements of "lucky food finds," to caresses of courtship and companionable chatter little suspected only by those familiar with bird haunts. And the innumerable emotions and suggestions conveyed to each other by the Crow and Raven fraternity, by means of many inflections, tones and alternations, and repetitions of the syllable "caws." Perhaps only those who have an acquaintance with the dots and dashes of the Morse symbols of telegraphy can form an adequate conception of all the Italian terms in the musical dictionary, "staccato, allegro, adagio, andante, fortissimo crescendo, and sometimes emphatical issimo," are in constant use and application among the black corvine community.

On the theme of the summer Redbird (*Piranga Rubra*), one has little perhaps that is satisfactory to communicate, for there is no authentically reliable report of that species having been seen in this vicinity for the last twenty-five years or more, and yet they are not a mythical bird. Persons who are still living near here give positive assurance of this species being commonly met with about here up to the summer of 1854, the absence of black color on the wings and tail was so obvious as to obviate them being mistaken for the ordinary Tanager, and one has no individually distinct remembrance of seeing the species in question since the summer of the year 1853. In that summer the Redbird without any black in or on its plumage, made regular visits to some bushes of the red berried elder, as the fruit of bushes was ripe, and particular attention was paid to the visits by myself and associates, on account of the birds showing such continued relish for berries whose coralline hue was of the same tint as the birds adornment. And since the birds vanishment from these parts, a number of the old residents who have been questioned as to their bygone experiences, treat the suggestion as absurd, that the still common to be seen Tanager could ever have been mistaken for the summer Redbird, or Tory bird as the latter was named by the pioneer settlers; possibly the almost entire removal from these regions of the pine trees may have caused changes in bird haunts. The summer Redbird ("T. Destivalis" of old editions of Wilson), was said to be more of a frequenter of clearings and fruit gardens than the Tanager proper, and yet the Tanagers are a good deal seen in the clearings. On their first arrival here in the spring it has been many times noticed that these birds have a penchant for visiting