

eggs of other birds and lays its own in their nests. It is the tramp among birds, too lazy to work for itself and determined to have no domestic cares, and yet in its food it devours what other birds would not touch unless famished, that is, the canker worm, on which it makes a square meal at any and all times. The Chickadees have been more plentiful in our orchard the past season than for many years, and even during winter can be seen in sunny sheltered nooks, catching spiders and numberless eggs and larva lurking in the tree bark and decayed wood; while, when chopping trees in the woods they will perch upon my hand if holding a chip infested with grubs. When the Robin takes his dessert off the cherries and there are none left for preserves I think of the grey grubs he has picked up as his first course, and when I hear my friends say "How do you keep the foliage of your roses so clear of insects?" I know that the small birds deserve a share of praise. So every law has its complications, and every time I hear a gun fired or see a bird trapped (unless it be an English sparrow) I know that it has left us to fight its share in the battle against pests that every orchardist must wage.

Many intelligent people do not know that birds differ from each other, as Scotchmen differ from Japanese, and even more do not know a bluebird from a Blue Jay or a Catbird from a Cow Bunting. They are all birds to them; and what their uses in nature are does not seem to many people worth a single thought; nor do they notice the fact that these feathered friends return to the orchard and garden each spring to the same old nests, and with the season's work begin foraging for their food.

We should be glad to acknowledge them as friends and say, "One of the best things that was done was the creation of birds."

Hon Mr. Fisher—We ought to be very grateful to Mr. Jack for bringing out some new points which a great many have overlooked. There is a great number of birds which are a great pleasure to us, and I must say that, although I have lived in the country some years and watched these birds, I do not know half as much about them as I ought. Is there any book which gives a description of birds by which ignorant people like myself can recognize them? I see birds and know their notes, but do not know their names, and when I ask other people they do not know either. I know that Mr. Jack and his family have studied these birds for years, and perhaps he might give us a hint where to get the best information.

Mr. Jack—The book I have studied is the ordinary natural history. Woods' is the one I took up. I have got a book from my brother in Boston lately treating on nothing but the common crow.

Mr. Dunlop (Secretary)—Just recently there has been issued a little work by a gentleman in Montreal, Mr. Ernest Wintle, entitled "The Birds of Montreal." It also takes in the birds of adjacent localities. Those who want to know about the local birds will find it a useful work.

Mr. Chapais—Le Moyne's book is a very nice book on the birds of the Province of Quebec, and there is a book in French by the ornithologist of Laval University, Mr. Dien.