

THE BIRDS OF OTTAWA.

BY C. W. G. EIFRIG.

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145. *Corvus corax principalis*, Northern Raven. A rare resident, becoming common in the northern parts of the district. On the larger lakes there, e.g., Hawk and Green Lakes in Labelle County, Quebec, small bands are seen every winter and a few usually succumb to the poisoned bait or to the traps put out. In the immediate vicinity of Ottawa it is a rare winter visitor.

146. *Corvus brachyrhynchos*, Crow. An abundant summer resident and rare permanent resident. A few remain about the slaughter houses on the outskirts of the city. About March 15th the large flocks of migrant crows pour in from the south, returning again about November 4th.

ICTERIDÆ—BLACKBIRDS, ORIOLES, ETC.

147. *Dolichonyx oryzivorus*, Bobolink. This charming cornetist of the meadows is a common summer resident with us, rarer in the more wooded portions of the district. It arrives from the 5th to the 12th of May and returns at the end of July and August, the 21st of the latter month being the latest date.

148. *Molothrus ater*, Cowbird. This, our only real parasite among birds, is a far too common summer resident with us. Extreme dates for arrival and departure are: March 21st and October 17th. In 1901, one was seen even in December. On June 16th, 1909, I found a Red-eyed Vireo incubating two of its own eggs together with three of the Cowbird; and on June 30th, another instance of the same kind, only, that one Cowbird egg had already hatched out. Both nests were on the Experimental Farm. The young of the smaller species almost invariably have to perish.

149. *Agelaius phoeniceus*, Red-winged Blackbird. An abundant summer resident. Found in large and small cat-tail swamps. They first arrive March 21st; the local breeding birds move away about August 7th. A little after that the migrants of this species from farther north begin to arrive and once more enliven the temporarily deserted swamps. On October 19th, 1908, about 1,000 were in the marshes near Rockland, some of which remained till November 1st.

150. *Sturnella magna*, Meadowlark. A common summer resident, which seems to be increasing in numbers. The first-comers arrive March 21st; by May 11th a nest with five eggs was found. Our local breeding birds move away about August 8th, but the species becomes common once more in autumn.