

What Birds Do For Us.

One of the most important features of bird study should be to make the children realize the great value of birds to man. Among the birds which do not appeal to little children is the common crow. When they see him in the cornfields pulling away the young sprouts and nipping the swollen kernels at the roots they naturally think he is doing great harm. They are partly right, but at the same time he is doing good, for he eats the cut worms, wire worms, and white grubs, which are most destructive to the corn crop. A good farmer will prevent the loss of his corn by the crow by lightly coating the seed with a solution of tar. The crow, after a sample of this, is quite content to turn his attention to the cut worms, thus preventing them from destroying the corn.

The crow blackbird, another bird which we are very apt to think of as only doing harm when we see him in the corn and grain, is often busily engaged eating May-bugs which are serious pests to the agriculturist.

We all know that the little English sparrow does great damage to fruit and shade trees. He destroys the buds and blossoms of the pear, peach and cherry trees, and often mutilates the blossoms of the maple and elm trees without eating a particle of them.

The cedar birds' fondness for fruit often overcomes him, and he helps himself to such delicacies as raspberries, blackberries and cherries, and in his search for insects perhaps does harm to the apple blossoms, but the farmer readily forgives him, as his more substantial diet consists of immense quantities of insects which are so injurious to trees, that in some cities they strip the elms year after year.

It would take pages to tell of the many ways in which birds are of use to man, but a few examples given the children will incite them with the desire to find out for themselves the value of each bird which they study.—*Selected.*

What bird builds no nest, but puts her eggs in the sand?

What birds lay their eggs in the nests of other birds?

What bird builds her nest in chimneys?

What bird builds her nest under over-hanging eaves of barns or houses?

What bird builds nests in holes in trees?

Name some birds that nest in holes in the ground.

Name some birds that build nests in clefts of rocks.

What birds build colony nests, a very large number building in one place?

In almost every line of export and import, the trade of Canada is rapidly increasing.

Transactions of N. B. Historical Society.

Number Six of the Collections of the New Brunswick Historical Society, which has just appeared, completes the second volume of the transactions. The contents of this number include the story of the Old Townships of the River St. John, a very interesting series of documents edited by Rev. W. O. Raymond, LL. D.; the journal of Gamaliel Smethurst, who explored the North Shore of New Brunswick in 1761, edited by Prof. W. F. Ganong, Ph. D., who places it with the narratives of Cartier, Champlain, Denys and LeClerq as among the precious classics of English literature; the Royal Commission and Instructions to Lieut.-Governor Thomas Carleton, with introductory note, by W. M. Jarvis; and a sketch of the Life and Administration of Lieut.-Governor Carleton, by Rev. Dr. Raymond. Instructive maps accompany the first two articles. The Carleton papers are illustrated by *fac simile* reproductions, including a portrait of George III from Carleton's commission, and by photographs of the church at Natley Scures, in Hants, where Lieut.-Governor Carleton is buried, and a tablet there erected to his memory by the legislature of New Brunswick.

The teacher must be a constant and interested reader of the books he is demanding his pupils to read. He must know and enjoy his "Robinson Crusoe" and "Alice in Wonderland," his "Being a Boy" and "Little Women." His knowledge of juvenile literature should not be merely a shadowy reminiscence. The teacher who has ceased to read the grade of books which make a normal appeal to the immature minds of his pupils is beginning to lose his usefulness. For he owes to the students not merely to tell them the titles of the books to be read, but to stimulate them and sympathize with them from his own vital interest. Many a teacher has been kept fresh for his professional work by his reading of children's books.—*The Outlook.*

It's little I can tell

About the birds in books;
And yet I know them well,

By their music and their looks;

When May comes down the lane,

Her airy lovers throng

To welcome her with song,

And follow her in train;

Each minstrel weaves his part

In that wild-flowery strain,

And I know them all again

By their echo in my heart.

—Henry Van Dyke.