

bird. The species usually comes in flocks and gradually pair off as the season advances. Our garden visitors selected spruce trees for their nesting sites and placed the structure well back amid the branches, some six feet from the ground. Here they reared their young upon insects and small fruits without in any way interfering with the other birds.

I have often thought that few of our feathered friends could surpass the Catbird for singing qualities. There is something quaint and yet sweet in the bird's notes, and a softness which associates the singer with the steady humants it loves. The Catbird is at its best soon after daylight, when from some perch above the shadows he pours forth the song for which he is becoming famous. The bird is also a mimic of note, and can imitate any bird from the Meadowlark to a Least Flycatcher.

Catbirds are inhabitants of thick undergrowth and the mixed shrubs made up of lilac and honeysuckle prove very attractive. Here it is that they build their nest of sticks and bark and later deposit the beautiful deep green-blue eggs. These birds get their name from the weird, supposedly cat-like sounds which they utter, especially when disturbed. We have had a pair nesting in our garden for the last four years.

Robins are constant visitors to the garden. They come, to begin with, for the sake of the berries, but do not always nest within the borders of the fence. They have, however, done so twice. On the first occasion the nest met with a disaster, the young being pulled out and devoured by a cat. On the second attempt the birds were more successful and managed to rear their young to maturity.

Robins are models of domestic companionship, for not only do both share in the nest building, but the male also assists in feeding the young and otherwise attends to them.

Like most birds the Robin is at his best soon after sunrise, and it is then that he pours forth the loud, cheerful song with which even city dwellers should be familiar. The males return to us from the south early in April and are followed by the females about two weeks later. These birds usually rear two broods in a season, and frequently do so in the same nest.

Such are our garden tenants of to-day. As time goes on and the trees grow, we hope to attract others, which would add to the pleasure and interest which our present feathered friends have given us.

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Copies of pamphlets, issued in the interest of bird protection and of the Migratory Birds Convention Act and Regulations, may be obtained from the Commissioner, Dominion Parks Branch, Department of the Interior Ottawa.

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