

rose for three months. There were several breaks in the weather before the New Year, but by the middle of January it became very severe, and the thermometer showed 55 below zero for several days towards the end of the month.

The winter came on with such suddenness that many birds must have perished, likely more from want of food than from the terrible cold. On November 4th, tree sparrows and juncos were very plentiful, and seemed to be in an excited condition of mind, being more restless than the chickadees that were with them. On the 10th of the month some boys brought me a Richardson's Owl that they had taken from the limb of a small poplar, even he, seemed to be chilled to the bone and did not resist capture. Before Christmas the snow was 20 inches deep on the level, and a month later I measured it in the woods and found it to be over 30 inches.

Late in January I happened to be at the stockyards one afternoon, and was very much surprised to hear the note of a blackbird, and on looking around saw a flock of eleven Rusty Blackbirds. Most of them were feeding on a stack of oat sheaves, while a few were sitting on the high fence that surrounds the yards. On enquiry I was told that they had been there since the first cold spell, and that on fine days they generally made a flight out to the neighboring farms, always returning before evening. None of the men could say where the birds spent the night, but thought they must have crawled into the stacks or the many crannies around the buildings.

On several occasions after, I visited the yards to see how the birds were wintering, and always found them in the very best of spirits. On very cold days they seemed to be occupied mostly in keeping their feet covered from the frost, this was done by squatting down and spreading out their feathers very much like the way the Horned lark acts while on the ground. Warm afternoons seemed to brighten them up, and feeble attempts were made at chorus singing, but not with the same vigor as is shown by them in the fall before leaving for the South. At this date (March 26th) the flock is seen daily flying to various parts of the town in search of different foods, and there are indications of their mating, six are males and five females. Their plumage is commencing to assume the lustre of spring birds.

Now the question must arise, why have these birds remained through such a long cold winter?

Camrose is on the 53rd Meridian, nearly three hundred miles north of the Montana and Dakota lines.

Did they know that this great distance separated them from a more congenial clime, and would not take the chance of a flight that might necessitate a stop where feed and shelter were uncertain? Something told them they had remained too long last fall, and that it would be best for them to accept the hospitality of the stockyards, rather than make an effort to cross several hundred miles of uncharted snow covered plains!

FRANK L. FARLEY.

A UNIQUE ENTOMOLOGICAL EXPERIENCE.—

While in camp at Lake Missanag, Ontario, during September, I collected a specimen of *Pedicia albivittata*, a large Crane-fly with black markings on the wings. I placed the specimen in the cyanide bottle fully expecting that, after the usual manner of Crane-flies, it would shed several of its long and loosely-attached legs, and my anticipations were fulfilled by its losing three of these appendages. I removed it from the cyanide bottle, pinned it, and proceeded to stick the three lost legs on with LePage's glue. In this process, which was one of some difficulty and demanded considerable accuracy of manipulation, one of the legs broke at the tibio-femoral joint, but I succeeded in joining it together again and attaching it to the body.

Half an hour after I looked at the specimen to see if all the appendages were still secure, when I observed, to my intense astonishment, that *the leg which had been broken in two was waving up and down*. None of the other appendages were moving and upon touching the abdomen the insect showed no signs of life. This leg continued to wave about for an hour or so, and early next morning it was still moving, and continued to do so intermittently until noon.

The only explanation of this peculiar episode which I can suggest is that some substance, possibly acetic acid in the glue, acted on the muscles of the leg, causing them to contract, and the broken leg moved because it had received a double dose of this substance.

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