

many birds move into the cities to winter, but apart from this there is undoubtedly a movement south and back again. The southern flight takes place at many odd times, but chiefly during November, and the return in March and April.

The other group confines itself almost entirely within buildings throughout the colder months and only appears outside during the warmer hours of each day, or when the weather is not excessively cold. Thus we have the domicile birds seeking winter quarters at home and the more restless individuals preferring to move to milder climates, even though that entails a long journey twice yearly. The question is, will this lead, in time, to two distinct races? Or, will the individuals of both inclinations, or habits, mix? By watching the resident birds I am led to believe that these commence to breed earlier than their migratory-inclined relatives, and if this is so it is possible to conceive that use or disuse of wing power, accustoming the eyes sufficiently to partly dark buildings to pick up food, different winter conditions and many other considerations might eventually cause a change; just as geographical conditions have caused so many local races to appear.

I believe much valuable information might be secured as to migration and acquired habits, by a careful study of the English Sparrow, especially if observations were made in all parts of the continent. The birds are already learning to migrate and to build nests in trees away from buildings, in fact they are showing marvelous powers of adapting themselves to new conditions of life, and it would be a great pity to lose an insight into their evolutionary characters through lack of careful study.

It would be interesting to know how far the birds move south, whether they become more plentiful in any special State during the winter months than in the summer. Does the winter movement exceed the southern limit of the summer range? and, are there any differences in the habits of securing food, etc., in those parts of the continent where shelter from cold is unnecessary?

THE FOREST RESERVES.

(Synopsis of a lecture given by Mr. A. Knechtel, Inspector of Dominion Forest Reserves, on Feb'y 26th, 1909, under the joint auspices of the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club and the Ottawa Teachers' Association.)

It would almost seem as if the white race had begun wrong on this continent. Needing cleared land for agriculture, we began in the woods, and now when we need the woods we begin