

which the half dozen eggs are laid. The eggs are white, as if polished, with numerous brownish specks, and one is laid each day until the set is complete.

But let us see what the male is doing! When the female began laying the carpeting in their one-roomed dwelling, her mate began work outside, and worked diligently in collecting drops of balsam and smearing them about the entrance to the nest until a space of an inch or more surrounding the entrance is thickly covered with this sticky material. This balsam no doubt serves to keep out marauding white-footed mice and carnivorous insects, which would prey upon the eggs or young birds.

When the young are hatched, they are mere naked mites, and bare, with but little resemblance to their parents. But time works wonders; down grows, later feathers appear; and in two weeks these once naked chicks greatly resemble their parents, but are much smaller. During the period of incubation and time of caring for the young, the old birds make very little noise about their home. Thus many enemies are not attracted to their locality.

After leaving the nest they are really a happy family, if one should judge by their pleasant twitterings, as they flit or creep about the trees and bushes in search of food, talking all the while in their own language, which, by an observing person, may be taken to mean "food here!" "danger there!" with warning calls to straggling members.

The red-breasted nuthatch is, with us, a permanent resident, being quite as plentiful in winter as in summer. They are often found in the company of the white-bellied nuthatch, black-capped and Hudson's chickadees, the golden-crowned kinglet and downy woodpecker. In size they are nearly our smallest bird, being only four and one-half inches in length.

Another native of Canada is the lynx (*Lynx canadensis*), locally known as wild cat and lucifee. The latter name is no doubt a corruption of the French word *loup-cervier*, meaning deerwolf. In some of our snow-covered sections the tracks of this large cat may be found. The feet are large and thickly covered, with hair even upon the soles; thus the tracks made by the animal are large, from three to six inches across, according to how the foot is spread. The general colour of the fur is grayish, being different from the fur of the bay lynx, which is reddish brown near the body.

What to Plant.

By DR. D. W. HAMILTON.

SOME BEST VARIETIES FOR HOME OR SCHOOL GARDENS.

Flowers.

Hardy Annuals.—Snapdragon, asters, calliopsis, candytuft, marigolds, corn flower, dwarf morning glory, zinnia, sweet peas, wall flower, portulaca, phlox, poppies, nasturtium, mignonette, larkspur, salpiglossis, four o'clock, gladioli, dianthus, sunflower, pansy.

For Borders.—Golden columbine, blue columbine, carpathian bells, lily of the valley, sweet william, bleeding heart, fox glove, yellow lily, hollyhock, narcissus, pansy, iceland poppy, moss pink, tulips, lilies, golden glow, Japanese iris, spirea, English daisy, periwinkle, forget-me-not, and any of our wild flowers.

Hardy Foreign Flowering Shrubs.—Thunberg's barberry, Siberian pea-tree, purple-leaved barberry, pink-flowered weigelia, Dyer's greenwood, large-flowered hydrangea, Kalm's St. Johnswort, tartarian honeysuckle, syringa or mock orange, Siberian crab, Japanese quince, Japanese rose, spireas, lilacs, way-faring tree, snowball, and any of our native shrubs.

Vegetables.

POTATOES.

Early.—Early Ohio, Burpee's extra early, Rochester rose, Irish cobbler.

Late.—Carman No. 1, moneymaker, empire state, American wonder.

BEANS.

Early.—Wardwell's kidney wax, Keeney's rustless wax, Detroit wax.

Early Green-podded.—Stringless green pod, valentine.

Late.—Refugee; navy.

Pole Beans.—Indian chief, old homestead, lazy wife.

PEAS.

Early.—Alaska, Gregory's surprise, Nott's excelsior, American wonder.

Medium.—Gradus, McLean's advancer, heroine.

Late.—Telephone, stratagem, champion of England.