

seen in every garden and orchard, and even among the trees in the streets of our towns.

It has but little fear of man, allowing itself to be approached quite closely as it climbs up and down among the branches of tree or shrub, looking keenly for insects amidst the leaves and blossoms. During the breeding season, however, this little bird shows great anxiety for the protection of its eggs or young. Flying in front of the prying visitor, or tumbling along the ground as if wounded, with wings and tail outspread, it endeavors by every artifice to attract the unwelcome intruder from the neighborhood of its nest. It is one of these birds occasionally selected by the Cow Bunting as a foster-mother for its young, and not unfrequently the single egg of the latter may be found deposited among the five or six eggs of the warbler.

The plumage of the yellow warbler is of a fine golden yellow over the front part of the head, the cheeks, throat, and side of the head. The back of the head and the back itself yellowish green, the breast and sides yellow, streaked with brownish red, wings and tail brown, edged with yellow.

If the weather be warm and pleasant, fresh arrivals continue to pour in during the week first in May. The Purple and Rusty Grackle, and the Red-winged Starling or Marsh Blackbird, if they have not already arrived with the Cow Blackbird in April, are among our first visitors, and about the same time come the Golden or Ferrugineous Thrush, the Wood Thrush, the Golden-winged Woodpecker and its Scarlet headed brother. The King Fisher, too, has returned to its old haunts by lake or river and may be seen watching for its finny prey from its perch on the projecting branch of some overhanging tree.

The Purple Grackle or common Crow Blackbird, (*Quiscalus Versicolor*), and the Rusty Grackle, (*Scolecophagus Ferrugineus*), are frequently found together. The Crow Blackbird makes its appearance in large flocks on its first arrival in the Spring, resorting in the day time to the fields and open country in search of food, and returning to roost at night in the tall trees in the neighborhood of some marsh or stream. Both it and the Rusty Grackle are much alike in their habits.

They are very destructive to the grain crops in some districts where they congregate in large numbers, but it may be doubted whether they do not fully compensate for all the mischief they do, in that way, by the good service which they render to the farmer, in consuming enormous quantities of grubs, caterpillars, and insects of all kinds injurious to vegetation. The plumage of the Crow Blackbird is a glossy black, with violet, steel-blue, and greenish reflections on the head, neck, and breast. The lower part of the back and the belly exhibit more coppery hues—the wings and tail are black, with green and blue reflections. The nest of this bird is generally built in tall trees, it lays five or six eggs of a dull green colour blotched with orange.

The Rusty Grackle differs from the Crow Blackbird in having the glossy black of its plumage varied by markings of ferrugineous brown over various parts of the body.

The Marsh Blackbird or Red-winged Starling, (*Agelaius Phœniceus*), may be recognized at once by the brilliant scarlet of the lesser wing coverts, which contrasting with the glossy black of the rest of the plumage, gives the bird the appearance of having a pair of "epaulettes," hence its popular name of Field-Marshal! These birds congregate in immense numbers during the breeding season, in the neighborhood of ponds or swamps, or marshy meadows, where, in some elder bush or thick tuft of rank grass or reeds their nest may be found, the exterior formed of a quantity of coarse dried weeds, the interior lined with fine grasses, the eggs, from four to six in number, light blue with dusky spots.

This handsome bird destroys an enormous quantity of grubs, worms, caterpillars, and different sorts of coleopterous insects, which are its chief food during the early part of the season, but it cannot be denied that it does not confine itself to insect fare, and that later in the year it is often very troublesome in the grain fields, and is especially partial to Indian corn. The plumage of the Marsh Blackbird is peculiarly soft, the general colour glossy black, the lesser wing coverts scarlet, their lower row light yellow, bill and feet black.

Perched on the topmost twig of some tall oak the Golden or Ferrugineous Thrush, (*Harporhynchus Rufus*), on a fine May morning, pours forth for an hour at a time its melodious song, the richest and most varied in its notes of all the songsters of the grove. No one who has once heard it and listened to its cadences, so full of sweetness and melody, but would forever after scout the assertion so often made by those who know little of our Canadian birds, that they are destitute of song. Except the Sky-lark and the Nightingale of Europe, there are few birds whose vocal powers can compare with those of this Canadian Thrush.

Like the Robin, this Thrush spreads itself over the greater part of Canada during the summer months. Its food consists of insects, worms, berries and fruits of all sorts, and like the Robin and the Cat-Bird, it is very partial to the neighborhood of our gardens when the cherries and strawberries are ripe; but we need scarcely grudge them an occasional desert at our expense, when we bear in mind the enormous number of insects of different kinds which they destroy, and which, if left to increase without a check, would prove a thousand times more destructive to our gardens and orchards. The nest of the Thrush is generally placed in some thicket or bramble patch, and composed externally of dry twigs imbedded in and mixed with dried leaves and coarse grass, and thickly lined with fibrous roots and horsehair. The eggs are from four to six in number, of a pale buff color, thickly sprinkled with dots of brown.

Few birds are more courageous in defending their nest, and they do not hesitate to fly even in the face of man himself if he be the plunderer.

The Wood Thrush, (*Turdus Mustelinus*), is very different in its habits to the bird we have just