

spring, as their nests suffer severely from its raids. A terrible din made by the crows will sometimes attract your attention and on approaching nearer you will observe the owl moodily surveying his cowardly, black enemies, who keep at a safe distance and give vent to their by-gone woes with their tongues. At last Mr. Owl becomes thoroughly disgusted and makes his escape to some secluded shelter, closely pursued by a black cloud of enemies. I once had the good fortune to find the nest of this owl with the aid of the crows. They were assembled on the top of a large oak which had a hollow trunk. Judging from their movements that something was up I watched them. They would go very near to the cavity of the tree, turn their heads wisely to one side and look in, then retreat with loud and angry cries. The Owl is often discovered by the Blue Jay, which will give the alarm and in a short time his noisy brethren are by his side to molest the owl. The Great American Horned Owl will never become thoroughly domesticated, although it thrives in captivity. The nest is usually built in the cavity of some large tree.

The Pileated Woodpecker wears a bright scarlet crest, from which it derives its name. Its beauty and size combine to make it the finest of the species. This bird remains with us during the summer months. It is a solitary bird, never venturing near the abode of man, its favorite resort being a dense forest, where it will perch on the trunk of some decayed tree and chisel away in search of insects. The strength of this bird's beak is remarkable, it makes a large cavity in an apparently sound tree. The hammering made by its beak may be heard at a great distance on a still day. Our bird is always on the watch for enemies and is not easily approached. On first observing an intruder he ceases his work and mounts to the top of the tree. On coming nearer he utters his loud, warning cry, and is gone to some remote corner of the forest. The cry of this bird is a number of loud, quick notes, uttered in rapid succession, and may be heard for some distance. We look for the nest; it is not hard to find, like all others of the same family, it is an excavation chiselled in the side of a dead tree.

The Cow Bunting, when compared with the Crow Blackbird, which it resembles, is about half its size. The Cow Bunting appears about the first or second week in April. They go about in small flocks sometimes accom-

panied by the Red-winged Blackbird. In the months of June and July they may be found in the fields among large heads of cattle. They seem quite fearless and are often in danger of being trodden upon by the cattle. They subsist upon insects and have the peculiar habit of depositing their eggs in the nests of other birds smaller than themselves, such as the Summer Yellow Bird and many of the warblers. The offspring of these small birds suffer severely in consequence, as the young Bunting is larger than the others in the nest and secures a greater portion of the food: its growth being so rapid that in a few days the others are crowded into such a small space that they die.

The Purple Finch makes its appearance in April and remains during the summer. This species is found more frequently in the lawn or park than in the woods, attracting our attention by its beautiful song. It is one of the finest of our Canadian songsters. The Purple Finch builds its nest in a tree; it is composed of vegetable fibres. This Finch subsists largely on insects and the buds of trees.

The Butcher Bird remains with us all the year. It is a great enemy to the sparrow and small birds. One specimen was captured while in the act of killing a sparrow which it had followed into the barn at the O. A. C. It passes so quietly from shrub to shrub that it has the advantage of the smaller birds. The Butcher Bird builds its nest in a thorn tree, the nest being made of small twigs and lined with fibres of bark and wool.

The Sparrow Hawk, one of the smallest members of the Hawk family, makes its appearance during April and remains all summer. Its sight is very acute. It will remain on the top of some dead tree where it can survey the fields. This hawk subsists largely on field mice and other vermin. Often times you may see it poised in the air, keeping the same position by a fluttering motion of the wings, then it will suddenly dart to the ground and in a few moments rise with its prey in its talons. It is much dreaded by the English sparrow as it makes great havoc among them.

The Blue Jay. This beautiful specimen of the bird family remains in some parts of Ontario all winter. Its voice, though not sweet, is capable of great variation. During the autumn and winter they abound in large numbers, making a great din. The Jay is remarkable for its thieving qualities, stealing other birds eggs which it devours. It is also very