

little architects while building their nests are extremely graceful. As the nest approaches completion, the male and female manifest increased affection for each other. The fairy-like Humming-bird constructs its tiny nest on the upper side of a limb. The materials used consist of soft down taken from the stems of the ferns. It is covered externally with lichens glued on with the saliva of the bird, and lined internally with the soft downy substances that fly from the tops of various weeds. The nest when completed will measure about one inch and a half in diameter, and is a most beautiful and skillful piece of workmanship.

The Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*.)—This merry songster places its nest in a tussock of grass in the centre of a field or meadow. It is composed of grass and soft roots, and lined with feathers.

FOOD OF CANADIAN BIRDS.

There exists a general and unfounded prejudice in agricultural communities against many of our most beautiful and useful birds, which we should like to remove if possible.

Nearly all the birds that frequent our orchards and nurseries are insectivorous, and well deserve the kind protection of the farmer and gardener. The services of our pretty and familiar friend the Robin are invaluable, and the ill feeling manifested toward this bird is quite unaccountable. The food of the Robin consists almost exclusively of grubs, earthworms, and those subterraneous caterpillars or cutworms that come out of the earth to take their food; all these and many others are devoured by the Robin, and if he should occasionally taste a cherry or a plum, surely the general interests of agriculture are of more importance than a few cherries. During the breeding season a pair of Robins will destroy myriads of noxious insects; and as the Robin raises two and sometimes three broods in a season, the service he renders the agriculturist in ridding the soil of grubs and worms that would destroy his