

This bird is worthy of our further attention.

We probably have no feathered haunter of our woods whose actions are so changed at different seasons. In the fall and early winter all but a few unsophisticated birds are "wild as hawks." Later in winter they become more sociable, and will allow a man to approach quite closely without taking flight. In springtime, during the nesting season, the female will allow a person to walk past her at a distance of only a yard without moving. One instance is worthy of mention—a man stepped over a log upon the female upon her nest, hurting the bird and breaking some of the eggs.

Again, a nest was found in the edge of a brush heap; one of the eggs was handled by the finder, and that egg, though uninjured in any visible way, was never afterwards allowed by the parent to remain with the others. Whenever the nest was visited for making observations, this egg was always found at a safe distance—an outcast from the family circle.

After the young are able to run about, what a change again comes over the female! How she will call upon the young to hide themselves while she ventures forth to meet the intruder! With apparently wings and legs broken, and ready to fall an easy prey, she will flutter before her supposed foes, and with piteous cries seek to entice them from the hiding places of her brood. Later—when the young are too large to be hidden conveniently—they must learn to save themselves by flight. If man should be so surrounded by enemies as to require him to be continually on the alert, there would undoubtedly be a great change in his habits.

The roosting habits of the partridge do not lack variety. Throughout the summer they roost upon the ground. In autumn and early winter they take to thick conifers; and in winter will dive from some tree into the light snow, and then crawl along until completely hidden. Again, when small conifers are so loaded with snow that the limbs droop in umbrella fashion, they roost in these, where they are hidden from their owl enemies.

Throughout the month of December the migration of birds is as nearly at a standstill as at any time throughout the year. The northern birds have put in their appearance, while those that make their winter home in the south are all gone, except occasional stragglers that have been injured, or for

some reason were unable to keep flight with their fellows.

A most striking case was noticed a few years ago, in connection with a pair of robins. The female was injured in such a way as to cripple her for long distance travelling. The male, true to his wounded mate, stayed with her, braving the storms of a northern winter rather than desert her in her hour of trial.

From the number of birds that have come to us from the north this fall, we may infer that there is little food for them up there. There has been a greater number of pine grosbeaks, pine siskins, and redpolls flying past than for many years.

Shields for Canadian Schools.

Shields made from the copper of Nelson's old flagship, the "Victory," are to be presented to every school in Canada which desires them and is willing to carry out the conditions regarding their distribution. This is virtually Lord Strathcona's gift to the children of Canada, the aims being to inculcate feelings of patriotism and to assist in a practical way the Canadian Branch of the British and Foreign Sailors' Society, of which Lord Strathcona is president. The particulars regarding the distribution of these shields have not yet been completed, but Lord Strathcona hopes that annually a paper may be written on a sailor subject, which will be of educational and patriotic value to the youth of Canada; and that the shield will be presented on prize day, and held by the successful scholar for the year. It is composed of pure copper, and is a work of art. On the upper corners are the oak and maple leaf. In the upper centre is the bust of Nelson, on the side of which is his immortal flag signal, and on the other the date of that momentous day in the nation's history—the battle of Trafalgar. At the bottom, upon the scroll, are the following words: "Made of copper from H. M. ships 'Victory' and 'Foudroyant.' Presented by Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal, G. C. M. G., through the British and Foreign Sailors' Society, for Canadian Schools, 1907. E. R. VII."

Oil and natural gas are being found over a wide area in Alberta, and it is predicted that the province will yet furnish a large part of the world's supply. But the largest single oil well yet discovered in the world has been found this year in Mexico.