

same June days. It is an exquisitely sweet and tender strain, and is sung in such soft tones it must be intended for one ear alone, for it cannot be heard a dozen yards away. The bird does not sing thus because he lacks strength of voice, for his winter song is loud and vigorous—just such a breezy carol as you might expect from a stalwart fellow who loves the north wind and revels amid the snow.

WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL.

Besides the song-birds that are resident in this country—chickadees, nuthatches, kinglets, and in the more southern districts, other species—there are yet others that are seen here in the winter only. They spend the summer beyond the northern limit of the settled districts and come to our neighborhood as a winter resort, just as many of our summer birds resort to the West Indies. Large flocks of tree sparrows and red-poll linnets are seen when the ground is covered with snow, but at no other season. Dainty little things they are, seeming too frail to stand the wintry blasts, yet they are extremely lively and merry while with us. In the same winter months the shrike comes also, with his ghastly, butcher-like method of impaling his prey upon thorn spikes and branches. You may not know that for all his coarse ways and fierce character, this fighting fellow is an expert musician—fit to be classed with our great songsters. His voice is sweet and of considerable compass and his execution compares favorably with the best. Besides his own song, which is an exquisite melody, he is a mimic of such ability that in some parts of the country he is called mocking bird. Other birds come to us in the winter—but of them again, for I am wandering.

Of all our winter birds none are more interesting than the crossbills. There are two species—the common or American crossbill, a dull red bird, and the white-winged. The adult male of the latter is handsomely costumed. His general plumage is a roseate hue, clouded on the back with dull brown. The wings and tail are blackish, the wings bearing two bars of white. The under parts are dull white, streaked with brown. The female is dull olive, somewhat