

hug their favorite flowers with profound cordiality, and push their blunt, polleny faces against them, like babies on their mother's bosom.

HOW CHICKENS GET OUT OF THEIR SHELLS.

Take an egg out of a nest on which a hen has had her full time, carefully holding it to the ear, turning it around, you will find the exact spot, which the little fellow is picking on the inside of the shell; this he will do until the inside shell is perforated, and the shell is forced outward as a small scale, leaving a small hole. Now, if you will take one of the eggs in this condition from under the hen, remove it to the house or some other suitable place, put it in a box or nest, keeping it warm and moist, as near the temperature of the hen as possible (which may be done by laying it between two bottles of warm water upon some cotton or wool), and lay a glass over the box or nest, then you can sit or stand, as is most convenient, and witness the true *modus operandi*. Now watch the little fellow work his way into the world, and you will be amused and instructed, as I have often been. After he has got his opening he commences a nibbling motion with the point of the upper bill on the outside of the shell, always working to the right (if you have the large end of the egg from you and the hole upward) until he has worked his way almost around, say within one half an inch in a perfect circle, he then forces the cap or butt end of the shell off, and then has a chance to straighten his neck, thereby loosening his legs somewhat, and so by their help forcing the body from the shell.—*American Farm Journal*.

FATTENING TURKEYS.

An old turkey raiser gives an account of an experiment in fattening turkeys as follows: Four turkeys are fed on meal, boiled potatoes and oats. Four others of the same brood were also at the same time confined in another pen and fed daily on the same articles, but with one pint of very finely pulverised charcoal mixed with their food—mixed meal and boiled potatoes. They had also a plentiful supply of charcoal in their pen. The eight were killed on the same day, and there was a difference of one and one-half pounds each in favour of the fowls which had been supplied with charcoal, they being much the fatter, and the meat being greatly superior in point of tenderness and flavour.

WARMING HENS' FOOD.

After an experience of several seasons, says the *Poultry Monthly*, we have adopted the system of warming the food all through the winter and cold weather, both morning and evening, and we attribute the excellent laying qualities of the fowls, in a great measure, to doing this. This food, whether whole or broken, grain or other food, either dry or moistened, should be warmed well before feeding. Some breeders as well as farmers make a practice of parching their whole corn, and are assured it is beneficial. Where new unseasoned corn is used for chicken food, this parching is a decided benefit, for it makes it equally as good for feeding as old-seasoned corn.

SKETCHES OF CANADIAN WILD BIRDS.

By W. L. Kells, Listowel, Ont.

THE BAY-BREADED WARBLER.

This species is five inches in length. The plumage on the head is reddish, or chestnut, sides of the head dark, breast bay, and belly white, upper parts brownish. It generally frequents wild swampy woods, but not low bushy places, as it seems to prefer to glean its insect prey among the lower branches of trees rather than near the surface of the ground. It forms its nest among thick leaves, or where a cluster of small branches project from the stem, or in the top of a small hemlock; this is formed of small roots, strips of bark, moss and hair. The eggs are three or four to the set, are of a whitish hue, dotted towards the large end with reddish spots.

THE CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER.

This species is also about five inches in length. The crown of the head has a greenish yellow hue, the back and wings are marked black and gray, lower parts also gray, sides of the breast chestnut. It frequents low, thick hardwood shrubberies, where, during the summer season, it finds its insect food in abundance, and here in some low thick bush, or cluster of raspberry vines, it makes its nest. This structure (not very neatly formed) is composed of small dry vines, grass and hair. Its set of eggs, three or four in number, are of a white hue, dotted towards the large end with reddish spots.

THE ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER.

This bird is five inches long, the plumage on the upper parts has an ashy-green hue, the crown of the head is bright orange, and the sides of the head and wings are marked with bars of white. Its nest is formed in the fork of a small bush, and composed of woolly matter, dry weeds, and fine dry grass, not, however, very neatly put together. The eggs, three or four to the set, are of a white hue, with dark dottings towards the large end. It is an active bird, and though its cricket-like notes may often be heard, as it gleans its insect prey among the green foliage of the summer woods, yet from its small size and quick movements it is not often easy to catch a glimpse of the warbler itself. Like the rest of its genus it departs southwards with the advent of the autumn frosts, and returns again when the woods and fields of Canada assume the emerald garb of summer.

THE MYRTLE BIRD.

This species—known also as the yellow-rump warbler—is a little over five inches in length. The plumage on the upper parts is light black, with a few whitish spots on the wings; the throat also is white, with a dark spot on the upper part of the breast, and the lower part has a yellow hue. It frequents swampy woods near the margins of the clearings, where there is a mingling of black ash timber and low balsam, and on the borders of small creeks. Here, in some small balsam, it forms a nest much like that of the red-cap, or chipping sparrow. This is constructed of fine dry stalks of weeds, small fibrous roots, spiders' webs, and hair. The eggs—four to the set—are white, with a ring of pale reddish spots towards the large end, and a few

dots of the same hue over the centre. Its food and migratory movements are similar to that of the other warblers.

THE DUSTY WARBLER.

This bird is four inches long, the colour on the back and wings has a dusty brown hue, with a tinge of olive; beneath, the colour is ashy. The male utters a low, but pleasant warble; its common notes are a simple "chip," peculiar to and varying but little in the warblers. Its habitation is the outskirts of hardwood-timbered lands, where there is low, thick underwood, in some thicket of which—sometimes a small evergreen—the nest is placed. This complicated structure is formed of dry stalks, fine strips of bark and other woody matter, and fine hair. The eggs—four to the set—are white, with a sprinkling of reddish spots on the large end.

THE YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER.

This species—sometimes called the linnet—is four inches in length. The plumage on the upper part of the body, wings and tail, is of a dusty-purple hue; the breast is yellow, with a dark crescent-shaped spot on the upper part. It frequents the margins of the woods where there are low, thick bushes, fallen timber, and raspberry vines. Here the female conceals her nest, formed of moss, fine dry grass, and hair, and generally placed in a crevice of a mossy bank, or old log. In this are deposited five or six eggs, of a white hue, mottled with pale reddish spots on the large end, and a few over the surface. And here the pleasant warbling notes of the male are often heard, while the bird itself is concealed amid the deep foliage of the brushwood. Its habits are retired and solitary, and but few of them are ever seen together. The male has two kinds of song notes, one of which, a kind of murmuring warble, is frequently uttered as he gleans his insect food among the leafy surroundings of the nesting place; the other, a more musical melody of many notes, is only repeated as he rises skyward upon quivering wings, and as the last cadence expires upon the summer air, he darts downwards to the thickets, where he loves to dwell.

THE YELLOW WARBLER.

This very common summer visitor—called also the summer warbler—appears to be found in most parts of the American continent, from Florida to Quebec. It is between four and five inches in length. The greater part of the plumage is bright yellow, tinged with green, golden, and brownish hues. It is a lively, but familiar bird; and its bright, golden hues render it conspicuous as, in pursuit of caterpillars and flirting insects, it pries and darts among the blooming shrubs and orchard trees. It is partial to thick, shady groves, and forms its compact, downy nest among the thick branches of shrubs, willows, or fruit trees, often quite near human dwellings. The eggs—generally four—are white, with a bluish tinge, mottled with pink spots. It is strongly attached to its eggs and young, and when the latter begin to show signs of leaving the nest the scolding notes of the parents are constantly uttered as they flirt around.

For working oxen, no breed can compare with the Devon. They are quick, large, docile, and easily kept. The colour is uniformly red, and they can be easily matched. On heavy roads the oxen of this breed are equal to horses in many respects, and at times superior.