

—CATTLE KILLED BY LIGHTNING.—Lynden, Ont, April 7th.—Last night Mr. John Lee, Jr., who lives three miles north from here, had six head of cattle and four horses killed by lightning while standing in the stable. The buildings were not much damaged, being some distance from the house.

Thunder storm, Montreal and light snow fall 2nd April—Heavy snow, Quebec—April 5th, temperature below the freezing point over the greater portion of Canada—Gale on the Lakes.

Heavy thunder-storm, Ottawa, night of the 6th April.

Snow and Cold.

—The snow-fall at Winnipeg this Spring was greater than for a great number of years.

—Very stormy weather in the Bay of Fundy 1st week of April.

—Snow-falls in Nova Scotia April 7th; also in New Brunswick the entry of the month was very stormy.

The heaviest snow storm of the season set in last evening from the east and continued raging until noon to-day, when it moderated. The drifts in some places are eight feet high, making locomotion very difficult.—*Quebec 2nd.*

—WINNIPEG, April 7th.—A train with 800 emigrants is frozen in three miles from the nearest source of supplies. Provisions are being carried by a relief train. It will be three or four days before the train can be got out. A man is dying in the train. There is no danger of starvation; but fuel and light may give out. *An April Snow-storm, Hudson, N.Y.*

Last night there was quite a sharp snow-storm in the eastern part of the country. At Hillsdale at least two inches covered the ground, and this morning the Berkshire Hills were as white as in mid-winter — *April 9th.*

DRESDEN, Ohio, April 10 —Three inches of snow fell here to-day.

INDIANAPOLIS, April 11—Reports in various parts of the State indicate that a hard freeze has killed the fruit.

NEW YORK, April 11—Dispatches from various parts of the country show that the cold snaps have done some injury to fruits and grain. The damage, however, is as yet not serious.

The Newfoundland coast is completely blocked with ice. The steamers plying between Halifax and St. Johns have experienced very severe weather this season.

Snow-storm again, New Brunswick, April 11th.

Fine April, Winnipeg.

Canals opened for navigation, Albany, N.Y., by 11th April.

First steamboat, Montreal, 11th April.

We had snow-flurries again on the 11th of the month, with minimum temperature of 17° F.

The FARMER'S FRIEND and PLANTER'S GUIDE is being most favorably noticed by the press everywhere. It is thought that one million and a half copies will be sold. We give this work to every subscriber to the WEATHER BULLETIN free, commencing with the MAY number.

St. Johns, Que., April 12th.—About three inches of snow has fallen and it is still snowing hard.

Birds and Weather.

THE BLUEBIRD.

HARRIET E. PAYNE.

A dreamy haze of sunlight floats
Across the shining fields of snow,
And, rippling through the glory, flow
A few delicious, liquid notes.

It is the first warm day of spring,
When tender breezes wander by;
And bluer than the soft blue sky
I see the bluebird's radiant wing.

Thy message, gentle bird, I know,
Immortal hope thou bringest me
Of love and beauty yet to be;
Of summers sure beyond the snow.

When bluebirds sing, and try their tenor,
Then is it spring? not always says Vennor.

The Blue Robin, as the bird is frequently termed, is among the first arrivals along the St. Lawrence Valley. It closely follows up the northward progress of the spring weather, and is generally some time ahead of either the swallow or song sparrow. Its advent is hailed with delight every where. On the return of the birds in the autumn, on their southward migration, the color of their plumage is dull and they present a different appearance than when on their spring migration.

The little Indigo bird—also blue—is an entirely distinct species, and arrives much later on in the season.

The Pewee, or Pewit, a fly-catcher, is also among the very first arrivals, and may be always seen and heard near streams, bridges, old mills and other watering sites.

The Raven—Some New Facts.

We have both Crows and Ravens in Canada. The former, as everyone knows, are abundant, while the latter are very rare. The Raven, amongst other places, nests and rears its young in solitude of the Great Manitoulin Island on Lake Huron. Here its solemn *croak* may be heard on most of the inland lakes. It nests both in the dead trees and on the cliffs of limestone, which are so marked a feature of this particular section of Canada. We have examined its nest and taken many specimens of its eggs, which compare very closely with those of the crow. The bird is hard to get at, and has extremely keen vision; but when guarding its newly-fledged young, it shows both courage and fierceness. The Raven is also met with towards the sources of the Ottawa, Gatineau, Lièvre and Rouge rivers, and what is singular—and to us a new fact or trait in its habit—is that we have been informed by Indians and lumbermen, that the bird *remains in these resorts all through the winter*, visiting them at their meals in camp in company with the "Whiskey Jacks," or Canada Jays, (of which we intend to treat in a future issue) and stealing provisions whenever the opportunity occurs.

The following clipping in this connection, which has recently appeared in several newspapers, may be found of interest:—

"Professor Linden said a good word the other day at Buffalo for that much persecuted bird, the common crow. The crow of America belongs to a scattered family of about two hundred species, including among them the buzzard, jay, raven and magpie. Of the genus proper to which the crow belongs, seven examples are found in the United States, the great black raven being at the head. In the wilderness about one hundred miles from Buffalo, on the shores of Lake Ontario, ravens were found. Their nests were so secluded as rarely to be discovered. So wary were the birds that Mr. Linden had found it impossible to obtain a specimen. They were reported more abundant on the Canada shore of Lake Ontario, but it was impossible to procure a specimen even there, though a liberal reward had been offered. The crow was only preserved from annihilation by its great cunning. Even in captivity the bird displays a degree of sagacity which almost resembled human intelligence. Mr. Linden admitted that the crow could hardly be called a sweet singer; still when tamed, he made a very interesting pet. On the whole, he might safely be set down as a useful bird and a real friend of the farmer. He eats large quantities of noxious insects, and though he has a bad habit of pulling up your tender shoots of grain, it was a question whether the damage was not more than compensated by the number of larvae of beetles thus brought to light and devoured."

Our Wood-peckers.

As requested, we give our experience relative to the species of wood-peckers inhabiting the Canadian woods and forests, in as brief a form as possible.

During the past fifteen years, collections have been made by us from Fort William, Lake Superior eastward to the Rouge River in Argenteuil Co., Que., and the following is our list of wood-peckers, slain and preserved:—

1—THE LITTLE DOWNY WOOD PECKER, our smallest species, and perhaps best known, almost always met with in every orchard or grove of any size.

2—THE Hairy WOOD PECKER: Very similar to the first, and quite abundant everywhere.

3—THE NORTHERN THREE TOED WOOD PECKER. Very abundant in the forest along Lake Huron and Lake Superior, and to the north of the Ottawa valley, where they nest in numbers.

4—THE BANNED THREE TOED WOOD PECKER. Perhaps our rarest species, only three birds having been met with by us in the whole of our explorations, and these at very inland and remote northerly points.

5—THE YELLOW-BELLIED WOOD-PECKER. Abundant in all sections.

6—THE RED HEADED WOOD-PECKER: Abundant in the woods and country parts, but apparently scarce in some sections of the Ottawa valley.

7—THE GOLDEN-WINGED WOOD-PECKER OR FLICKER: Abundant everywhere and known to the country people as the "High-holder."

8—THE PILEATED WOODPECKER: Our largest species. Rather abundant on Lakes Huron and Superior, Great Manitoulin island; on the Madawaska and Bonnechere rivers, Ottawa valley, and country to the northward. Specimens have been shot on the island of Montreal but here the birds are very rare. We have been fortunate enough to take the eggs of this