

came and tried to carry it away. Why?

Now it is safe to assume that for every bird found dead, hundreds, if not thousands, are not found, showing a consequence of the backwardness of the season, that may well stagger a nature lover.

Another and very curious effect of this lack of food in the accustomed places was the apparent change of habit it induced some species to adopt, the warblers again being the most affected. If a person had begun the study of birds, or at least of warblers, this spring, near here, he would have formed many an erroneous opinion, and yet would have had observed facts to base them on. He would e.g. not have had any hesitancy in stating, that most warblers were ground loving birds, looking for their food on the grass. For this is precisely what the yellow, Blackburnian, Canadian, and other warblers could be seen doing day after day in May. During a walk on the 20th, I saw 10 to 15 yellow warblers, all on the ground or on old weed stalks, etc., not far above it. The same was told the writer by farmers in Renfrew County, by a returned lumberman from Lake Kippewa, who said that on every small spot of grass in the woods or on the farm, these little "black and yellow," etc., birds, that they had "never noticed before" were abundant. They were very tame, too, allowing one to catch them, caused, as already indicated, by their starved condition. On May 4th, after that great snowstorm, four hermit thrushes came out of the pines on the veranda of Mrs. Brown's residence, Ottawa East, to within three or four feet of Mrs. Brown and Miss Lees, who were standing in plain sight of them on the inside of a window, which shows much more tameness than this species usually shows. Another curious change of habit could be observed in the myrtle warbler. It was almost invariably to be seen in cat-tail swamps, where, however, no sign of new growth was yet to be seen, darting over the water, most probably after the few flies, etc., there, in the most approved flycatcher style. A beginner would have undoubtedly classed the myrtle warbler as an exclusive swamp bird. Altogether, judging from the number of yellow and Blackburnian, etc., warblers at the edge of rivers and pools, that must be the last place where insects can be found when absent everywhere else.

Nesting was naturally also greatly affected. The delayed arrival of many species would, of course, also postpone the time of nesting. Even such that were here on time, or even earlier than usual, like the robin and red-winged blackbird, delayed nest-building in many instances, owing probably to the fact that the leaves and cat-tails were so late coming out, which would have left their nests too much exposed. This must have been a considera-