

seem to express the feeling of joy that pervades all nature in June. The birds arrive here about the middle of May, the males coming a few days before the females. They resort at once to the hay meadows, and remain there through the nesting season which is concluded by the time the hay is ready to cut. Whilst on the farms their food consists entirely of insects, of which the caterpillars that feed on clover form the greater part. These caterpillars are very abundant, and, where they are not kept in check by the birds, sometimes do serious injury, so that apart from its appearance, and its good qualities as a musician, the Bobolink has a claim upon us which entitles it to our best care and protection. After the hay is cut the males lose their black and white plumage, and become like the females and young in appearance, of a yellowish brown color. They then associate in small flocks and frequent the marshes, feeding on wild rice and the seeds of some rush-like plants until the first frosts come, when they retire to the south for the winter.

In the rice growing States these birds are sometimes accused of doing considerable mischief to the planters' crops, but I am inclined to think that the various species of blackbirds which also resort to these States, are the principal depredators, and by reason of their greater abundance do the most of the damage.

*Meadowlark.* The Meadowlark is a common though, unfortunately, not now an abundant bird on the farm. Some years ago it could be found wherever the land was cultivated, all through the Province, but owing to its size and slow straight flight, which makes it an easy mark for the gunner, its numbers are decreasing very fast. This is a great pity, for it is an exceedingly valuable bird to the farmer. From the time of its arrival here in March until its departure in November it resorts to the cultivated land and grass meadows, feeding entirely on insects, and never indulging in grain or fruit of any kind. All its work being done amongst the crops upon which man expends his labor and to which he is compelled to look for his subsistence, the benefit conferred is direct and should be appreciated. We cannot make any return for the good it does, but we can at least refrain from destroying its life, and exert ourselves a little to prevent others from doing so. The class of insects upon which this bird feeds during the early part of the season is perhaps the most injurious to vegetable life of all our insect enemies. Its food consists chiefly of those known as cut worms, wire worms, etc., all of which work underground for the most part during the day and only emerge from their hiding places at night. By some highly developed faculty the Meadowlark is enabled to locate these creatures in their hiding places, and being provided with a sharp beak of sufficient length for the purpose, is able to drag them out and devour them. Of all the stomachs I have examined prior to July, the principal contents were wire worms, cut worms, and some few other caterpillars and beetles; later in the season the food consisted principally of grasshoppers. On two or three occasions I have found a few of these birds wintering with us, in the vicinity of market gardens, and being curious to know if at that season they had been compelled to fall back on a seed or vegetable diet, I shot one out of each lot, and I found the birds were in remarkably good condition. Their stomachs contained, however, nothing but insects, chiefly bugs and beetles, which they had probably obtained from manure heaps and the refuse cabbages left in the gardens. These birds build a domed nest on the ground, in grass fields; their eggs and young are therefore liable to be destroyed by Crows, skunks and other vermin, and those that escape their natural enemies are subject to such continued persecution from gunners who ought to know better, that our beautiful and useful Meadowlark is in danger of extermination, unless some effort is made for its protection.