

The Rockwood Review.

territory, and about four-fifths of the numbers were unquestionably young birds in immature plumage. On another occasion, when a sudden irruption of grackles troubled us was into our cherry orchard, and their name was Legion; but on this latter occasion the host had in its ranks many rusty grackles. The birds seemed infatuated, and would and must have the cherries; they kept on purloining, although a chnm had just been knocked off by shot from an adjoining branch, and seemed oblivious of danger from gunpowder; the most efficacious "scare" was found in a similar device to that which bird boys in England are accustomed to make use of, in driving off flocks of town sparrows from fields of ripening wheat,—namely, a large wooden clapper, two pieces of hardwood the size of a shingle but thicker, hinged at one end to a longer middle piece, and violently shaken near to the place of the depredation. By incessantly serenading the dusky host, and moving about from tree to tree with three or four of these unmelodious inventions, for the space of four hours or more, we tired out the persistent thieves, and they at last moved off to an orchard a quarter of a mile distant, and stripped the trees therein of every ripe cherry, ere the owner became aware of what a "blow-out" his bigareans were affording to the uninvited visitors!

Among the slain blackbirds under one of our cherry trees, we found a mother matron who had but one leg!—the short thigh stump whence the absent limb had been removed, (probably by trap), was perfectly healed over, showing that the amputation might have taken place years previous to the cherry stealing escapade, yet had not incapacitated the bird for the duties of maternity.

The instances where the red-wings chose the tall Lombardy poplars for nesting purposes are quite numerous, and the birds' presence being unpopular so near to the farm house or garden, causes attempts to break up the sanctuary,

but little short of cutting down the tree proves an effectual repellant. The choice and attractiveness for their purposes of this species of tree seems an acquired trait, as the L. poplar is an introduced species.

W. YATES.

PETS IN THE SEA.

BY C. F. HOLDER.

During a visit to one of the islands off the coast of southern California I found that the fishermen were in the habit of feeding certain wild animals, which in time became so tame that strangers might almost think they were domesticated. The fishermen fed the gulls every morning when cleaning their fish, some of the birds becoming so friendly that they allowed the men to touch them, while others followed them out to sea, alighting on their boats, and exhibiting remarkable confidence.

Among the animals which frequently came into the little bay to feed was a large seal. It sometimes followed fishing-boats in, and once, when rows of fish were hung up to be photographed by their fortunate captors, it raised its head high out of the water, apparently eyeing the fish so eagerly that the boatman gave it a share.

The fishermen usually went gill-fishing late in the afternoon, and the seal, perhaps perceiving that the whole operation was for its benefit, began to accompany them; and as soon as a fish became entangled it would dive down and take it out of the net, returning to the surface to toss it in the air in high glee before the eyes of the fishermen. In this way the seal robbed the nets, growing bolder and bolder. At last one day when one of the fishermen had returned from the banks and was washing his catch from a boat not far from a spot where the writer stood, splashing the big red fish to and fro, suddenly a large dark form darted up from below, two black eyes looked at the amazed fisherman for a moment, and then the