

as you or I could change a like article from one hand to the other. But all do not live all the time by camp robbing, or trap-robbing. If they did many of the names applied to them would be well earned.

Let us see the Canada jay from an economic, a beneficial point of view. This will bring to light other habits and a different food supply. Small mammals, killed by the birds themselves, are part of the bill of fare, and insects in all stages of life form a large part of the menu even among camp fed birds.

The writer performed a surgical operation upon a Canada jay which had been in the habit of dining with a crew of lumbermen, and was much surprised to find that nearly one thousand eggs of the Lorset tent-caterpillar had been taken for breakfast. The chrysalids of this caterpillar are also fed upon, and in the autumn while the birds are migrating south they feed largely upon locusts, beetles, etc. The young taken in June feed upon beetles and caterpillars, species well known to the birds but unknown to the writer.

What real naturalists our wild birds are, knowing how, when and where to find and obtain their food supply, be it insect in any of its stages, plant forms, or other life. Were we able to understand our wild neighbors what a great amount of information could be gained regarding the life histories of many forms of life.

A most interesting entertainment to witness is when the Canada jay turns his attention to collecting mice. Not only is it interesting to witness but from appearances the performances is highly interesting to both jay and mouse. A Canada jay was heard shrieking and calling in such a manner as to call the attention of man. A mouse had been running over the snow from one burrow to another when it was espied by the sharp eye of the jay, who immediately gave battle by flying down and catching the mouse in its bill, whereupon the mammal turned upon its foe and prepared to defend itself by trying to bite the bird, but the jay seemed aware of such tactics and suddenly dropped its prey. The mouse sprinted for cover, but was again held up. These tactics were followed until the mouse had become too badly injured to run, when it was most viciously seized and pecked to death. With screams of vic-