

nest of the Rose-breasted Grosbeak, but it is said to be built generally in the thick woods, and the nest to be composed of dried twigs lined with grass. The plumage of this bird is very handsome. The head, upper part of the neck, back, wings, and tail, glossy black. The first row of wing coverts, the tips of the secondary coverts, and the ends of the three lateral tail feathers, white. Lower part of the breast, middle of the belly, and lining of the wings, bright carmine.

Another coy beauty which may occasionally be seen in the shadiest part of the garden or orchard on its first arrival, is the American Redstart. (*Setophaga Ruticilla*). It reaches Canada early in June, and is said to push its way as far north sometimes as the Red River, and even the valley of the Saskatchewan. On its first arrival it may sometimes be seen about our gardens, hunting along the mossy branch of some old apple tree in pursuit of insects, jumping rapidly from side to side, opening and closing its beautiful tail with every movement which it makes, then suddenly descending zig-zag fashion along the trunk towards the ground, flirting its expanded tail like a fan from side to side, just allowing the brilliant orange of the lateral feathers to be seen for a moment. The next instant it is off like an arrow after some fresh insect it has caught sight of in the distance, and the quick snapping of its bill tells the fate of its prey. When the period of incubation arrives, the Redstart betakes itself to the thickest woods, and it is there also that we must look for it during this month, and for the remainder of its stay with us. Its nest is generally built near the slender forks of a young hickory or beech sapling. The external materials are strips of hemlock fir, or paper-birch bark, and dried tough grass or lichens, agglutinated together by saliva, and lined with the finest fibres of the wild grape vine. The eggs, three or four in number, are white, sprinkled with yellowish brown dots. The colour of the plumage of the Redstart is black, glossed in places with steel blue over the head, neck, forepart of the breast and back. Sides of the breast and under wing coverts and upper half of the primaries a fine reddish orange. The two middle tail feathers black, the rest orange on the upper half, the terminal half black.

In the stillness of the summer evenings, when the sun has sunk to rest, and the brief twilight begun, the dwellers in the country, as they sit by their doors enjoying the cool balmy air, may hear from the edge of the nearest wood the singular but melancholy note of the Whip-poor-will (*Antrostomus Vesperugo*). Its sad and "oft repeated tale," prolonged far into the night, sometimes meets the ear from the adjoining field or garden, but in general the bird prefers to keep near the wood to which in the day time it resorts, or where the female has built her nest, and is rearing her young.

The Whip-poor-will, as well as its congener the Night Hawk, comes to us early in June, and in favourable seasons sometimes even earlier.

Its note is generally heard for the first time on some warm evening in June; is continued through July, after which it is seldom uttered, and towards the end of August, they leave us for a more genial climate. During the day, this bird sleeps on the ground, or on the fallen trunks of trees in the forest, and in such situations, it may sometimes be approached within a few feet without alarming it, but in rainy or very cloudy weather, it is much more on the alert, and flies off as soon as it discovers any one approaching within twenty or thirty yards of it. It has a singular habit of always sitting with its body parallel to the direction of the trunk or branch of the tree on which it is seated—never across. The food of the Whip-poor-will consists principally of large moths, beetles, and other insects, which are generally abroad about the dusk of the evening, when the bird may be seen pursuing its prey, passing low over the ground, or skimming rapidly along the skirts of the wood, and not unfrequently, like the Night Hawks, fluttering round the cattle in the field, and snapping up any insects which may approach to rest upon them.

It deposits its eggs on the bare ground, or on dry leaves in some unfrequented part of the forest. The eggs are always two in number, of a greenish white, spotted and blotched with bluish grey and light brown. The young, like partridges, are soon able to run after the mother, and until they can fly, seem such shapeless lumps of clay-coloured down, that it is almost impossible to distinguish them from the dried leaves or the ground on which they repose. By the time they are able to fly, they are of a brown colour, very beautifully marked with darker zig-zag lines and dots, interspersed with patches of buff. The plumage of the old birds is very handsome. The upper parts generally a mixture of dark brown and grey, streaked and variegated with wavy minute lines of black, brown, and rust colour. The quills and wing coverts are dark brown, spotted in bars with light brown, the tips of the former mottled with light and dark brown. The four middle tail feathers are like the back, dark brown, marked with lines of black, and a pale ochre or rust colour. The three outer feathers dark brown also, for the lower half of their length, the upper half white; cheeks and sides of the head brownish red; a narrow semicircle of white passes across the throat, the breast and belly irregularly mottled and streaked with black and yellow ochre. Unlike the Whip-poor-will, the Night Hawk, (*Chordeiles Popetue*), notwithstanding the nocturnal prefix to its name, may frequently be seen on the wing during the greater part of the day, when the weather is dull and cloudy, and even at times when the atmosphere is clear and the sun skimming in all his glory. While staying in the country, in the neighbourhood of Lake Simcoe last summer, on returning from church one bright Sunday morning, I came upon some hundreds of these birds at a spot just where the roadway was carried over the line of the Northern Railway by a high