

plentiful during the migration of small birds, particularly Tree Sparrows and Juncos, upon which they prey with much persistency. They should not be confused, however, with the White-rumped Shrike, which takes their place during the summer months. These latter birds are probably much more useful, as their food is made up largely of grasshoppers.

APRIL 18.—Examined pellets of a Western-horned Owl of last summer and found them to contain fur of a striped gopher (unusual food), rabbit and mouse hair, and also broken bones of several small mammals.

JUNE 10.—Saw a male Marsh Hawk capture a Cowbird. He appeared suddenly over some bushes and made his capture almost before the small bird was aware of his presence.

Only a farmer can fully appreciate Cowbirds. You must be following the plough or tending cattle to note the habits which can be observed nowhere else. They will be seen at one time running about on the back of a cow, catching flies; at another, being shoved out of the way by the nozzle of a feeding horse. A small band are nearly always in attendance of the ploughman picking up noxious larvæ, such as White Grubs, etc., and when they become less hungry they content themselves with pinching the heads of large grubs, only eating the smaller. It is interesting to watch them running along with their beaks pointing upwards making a careful scrutiny above for a possible hawk. To see the males, which greatly predominate, showing off and being chased by the females; to sit still and have full grown young walk over one and fearlessly take food offered, besides many other little acts, tends to make us forget the habits of parasitism for which they are condemned, for with all their faults they still do much good; and, for the old-fashioned naturalist, who cares less for the dollars and cents, and more for Nature, because it is Nature, the Cowbird, when properly known, will always be looked upon with warm regard.

JUNE 11.—Noticed several Red Crossbills in the spruce woods feeding on old cones on the tops of the trees, which indicates that perhaps they breed here.

JUNE 18.—A nest of a Red-tailed Hawk examined to-day, contained three young that could almost fly, and a striped gopher.

JUNE 24.—Found the nest of a Swainson's Hawk in an aspen tree. There were three young in it about two weeks old, also three striped gophers and a Meadow Lark.

I have examined numerous nests of these hawks at different times, and when there were young present, have never failed to find gophers also, showing that the nestlings are supplied with