

where, begin to leave us in August, when there is no sign of cold. And why would they then leave again the warm Southland where there is no cold to be feared at any time? Some will say: "It is because their food gives out in winter." This is, of course, a better reason than the first, though the two are inter-related. But that even the very important food question cannot be the sole motive for their migrating can be seen from the fact, that many birds start away from here in August and early September when their food is most abundant, and the same can probably be said of the places they leave when returning north. So this point is somewhat mysterious. We have to fall back on instinct, which of course, while being a handy word to use, does not explain anything to us. The birds seem to have an instinctive desire for seclusion during their nesting time, which could not be obtained in the south, where the millions of birds from the north are crowded together with the teeming faunal life there resident. This, together with the evident love for the place where they were born, seems to be the motive, at least for the northward migration. Besides, we notice an instinct or impulse for migrating in other animals also, as among the lemmings, the salmon, eel, herring, etc.

Then we ask, "*When* do birds migrate?" No any one answer will suffice for this question. We have a spring migration, the birds travelling northward, and a fall migration, southward. Each extends over a long time, as some species come and go early, others late. There are probably only two months when no migration of any kind or at least wandering and roving about takes place, these being January and June, the latter the nesting month over a large part of the northern hemisphere. With us the beginning is made in the spring migration by the Prairie Horned Lark and the Crow, which come about the last week of February. During the second half of March come the Song Sparrow, Bluebird, Robin, Tree Swallow, etc., in April the Phoebe, Kingfisher, gulls, ducks, blackbirds, Meadowlark, etc., but May is the leading month in the spring migration. Then, huge waves of warblers, finches or sparrows, fly catchers and vireos come. The last migrant here is the Blackpoll Warbler, which can be heard into the first few days of June. The fall migration is started by some