

jet black and its wings are also marked with the same shade. The female is of the same olive green color as the mate of the Canary.

It is a pity that so beautiful birds should be caught in trap-cages, for they live for a very short time in captivity; the Goldfinch has a very characteristic jerky flight, up and down, and is one of the few birds that will sing while flying so that it can easily be known at a long distance from other small birds.

Sometimes a large Hawk which has been slowly hovering near the surface of the fields starts up suddenly, and flies hastily away. What is the trouble? One or two small grayish-black birds not much larger than the common sparrow are pursuing the large bird of prey, monarchs of the air they fear no other bird, and when an enemy twenty times larger than themselves appear the Kingbirds attack, and by vigorous pecking, force them to clear away from the neighborhood of their nests.

Before ending this short review of our commonest birds I would like to mention another denizen of the air which is with us later in the season than most of the others; the American Cross-bill. The male is brownish-red in color whilst the female and the young are olive yellow. They feed on the coniferous trees and to enable them to extract the seeds from between the hard scales of the cones the upper and lower part of their beak are curiously curved, which fact has given them their specific name "curvirostra" or Crossbill.

As a conclusion let me quote a beautiful legend, translated from the German of Julius Posen, by the poet of "Evangeline."

THE LEGEND OF THE CROSSBILL.

"On the cross the dying Saviour" Stained with blood and never tiring,
Heavenwards lifts his eyelids calm, With its beak it doth not cease,
Feels, but scarcely feels a trembling From the cross would free the
In his pierced and bleeding palm. Saviour,
Its Creator's son release.