

entirely either on the ground or from trees or shrubs. In the first class, besides some rare birds which we do not need to mention here, the following are found common in most parts of our Province: the swallows, *Hirundinidæ*; kingbird, *Tyrannus Carolinensis*, pewee, *Sayornis fuscus*, and nighthawk, *Chordeiles popetue*. The food of these birds consists chiefly of flies, a large proportion of which cannot be said to be either noxious or beneficial; many of them in the earlier stages of their existence live in the water, where they devour decaying vegetation or feast on the lower and simpler forms of animal and vegetable life. The larvæ of many others are scavengers, devouring decaying or putrescent animal and vegetable matter, and hence well deserve to be classed with beneficial insects. In the same class of friendly species will rank a considerable number of others which are parasitic on the bodies of caterpillars, also the rapacious species who sustain themselves by devouring the weaker and less vigorous of their race. A few rare exceptions, of which the wheat midge and Hessian fly may be noted, as examples, are very injurious to field crops, while the mosquito and black fly are universally branded as enemies to the human race. These birds also devour a few butterflies and moths, but these, with few exceptions, are harmless. The question, then, to what extent these purely insectivorous birds are beneficial to the farmer or fruit grower, reasonably admits of much difference of opinion, for while they do devour a few of our tormentors, they probably destroy a much larger number of beneficial insects, the main bulk of their food, however, consisting of harmless species. Doubtless they serve a purpose in maintaining a proper balance among the insect hosts, and between animal and vegetable life, but that their service in these departments is so all-important as some would urge admits of grave doubt.

The birds of the second division, namely, those who take their food partly on the wing and partly from trees and shrubs, or on the ground, are not entirely insectivorous. The remarks just made in reference to the first class will apply also to this as far as their food is taken on the wing, but on trees or shrubs, or on the ground, they consume insects of entirely different classes, chiefly beetles and the caterpillars of moths and butterflies. The beetles admit of a similar division to that of the flies already noticed; the larger number are harmless, a large proportion of the remainder are beneficial, and a few are injurious. Most of the caterpillars of moths and butterflies are harmless, feeding in limited numbers on a great diversity of shrubs and trees of little or no economic importance.