

Where Do the Birds Go?

By Laura B. Durand

During the sultry weeks of August, the stubble fields where the hay and red clover grow knee-high in June, and over which the Boblinks hovered in ecstasy, are tenanted by what appear to be large, sparrow-like birds, as large as "Bob o' Lincoln," but bearing no resemblance to him. They run along the ground, keeping to cover, or, at your call, stand on tip-toe to peer at you. They are always feeding, and are very plump. The stranger is perplexed to identify this "Sparrow," and looks through his guide book vainly. No wonder. These are not sparrows! Presently one of them springs into the air, and flies, horizontally to the tip of a stately evening primrose, where he balances. He sings as he flies and as he poses, a delightful, rippling melody which simply tumbles out of his brown throat.

If the stranger has heard that song in June he associates it with a conspicuously handsome bird dressed in black and white and yellow. And he may discover that the singer is the same fellow in a different and much more sober dress. It is indeed Bob o' Lincoln, and his mate, and five or six youngsters, preparing to start on their journey to the southern States.

Should one not hear the loved, familiar song from the brown bird, one will be certain to hear mellow calls that sound like "Chink, Chink, chink!" or "Spink, spenk, spink!"

The Bobolink undergoes two distinct moults in a year, in spring assuming his wedding garments of black underneath from the crown of his head to almost the end of his tail, white insertion on his wings and lower back, and golden spots on the nape of his neck, on his wings and tail edges, as if the bright heart of him shone out like the sun behind clouds.

Formerly great numbers of Bobolinks were shot in the rice-fields of the southern States, where they are known as Reedbirds. The slaughter may continue, despite the Migratory Birds Convention Treaty, for it is said they damage the rice crop. The remnant winter in South America and return to the places of their birth in the spring.

A different history attends another of the beloved Canadian birds which also dresses in black and yellow in the summertime. This is the Goldfinch, much smaller than Bobolink, who is something over seven inches in length, a quarter inches. The male of the latter species, also, undergoes two moults in a year, assuming his golden and black livery in May for his June nuptials, and throwing it off in September, to replace much the same "sparrow" garments as the Bobolink wears in winter.

But the Goldfinch does not pack his trunk and go south. He gathers his family and friends about him and remains. In the more southerly parts of Canada, in the Ontario peninsula, at all events, flocks of this species in their brownish winter dress may be met in the severest weather. They are weed-seed eaters of the best type, the type which habitually clings to the weed-heads, and not only picks out the weed seeds from their moorings, but shakes them onto the snow where the ground-feeding Snow Buntings and Juncos and Sparrows and Larks find them accessible to assist in the winter cleaning-up of Canadian fields.

The Goldfinch is merry in the winter. Not so merry as the darling Chickadee. Its mirth is supreme and proverbial. Yet the Goldfinch is noticeably happy in the cold and snow of January and February, and in sheltered cedar swamps I have heard them sing in the sunshine almost as blithely as in June.

A markedly migratory bird is the Purple Martin. It makes a tumultuous arrival about the middle of April, and an even more tumultuous departure at the end of August. For the excitement is intensified by the presence of all the season's young birds and the problem presented to the parents of where to settle the overflow of the colony on their return in the spring.

No bird better repays one for shelter and protection than the Purple Martin. In their glorious flights they scour the air of flies and mosquitoes and every species of flying pest, and are thus ef-

icient protectors of gardens. It is one of the most purely insectivorous of all birds, and of infinitely greater value than the nasty, quarrelsome House Sparrow, which continually disputes with it possession of the houses built solely for its greatly desired tenancy.

The moment of choice must arise sooner or later—usually "sooner"—with all persons who desire out native wild birds—Wrens, Blue-birds, Song Sparrows, Robins and Purple Martins—to nest in their gardens between these species, with their services and their lovely song, and the ragged little alien, with its predatory habits and offensive voice, the English Sparrow.

This Sparrow is a permanent resident, wherever it secures a footing. Some persons defend it on this ground.



Easily Explained.

Wife—"John, how do you catch such wretched colds?"
Dray Driver—"Ain't I behind a pair o' draft horses all day?"



WHEN THE WORM TURNED!

—From London Opinion.

Ceilings which have become blackened with smoke may be cleaned with a cloth damped in warm water and soda.

Canada is larger by 102,108 square miles than the entire United States, including Alaska, Hawaii and Porto Rico.

A Man's Prayer.

Lord, if one boon alone be granted me;
Let me but choose what that one boon shall be;
I shall not ask to live 'mid sheltered bliss,
In soft security—but only this:

Let me be not a coward in the strife
That sweeps across the battlefields of life;
Let me leave not for other lives to bear,
The burdens that were rightfully my share.

Let me not whine, nor ever seek to shirk,
But cheerfully bear my full load of work,
Then, place a friendly shoulder 'neath the load
Of one who, fainting, falls beside the road.

Let me, oh Lord, be clean and unafraid;
Let me go forth to meet life undimmed;
Until the final hour of life brief span,
Let me walk upright—let me be a MAN!

Thus, let me live; that when, the day's work done,
I pitch my tent toward the setting sun,
Lie down to rest, and from my labors cease,
My soul, within its house, shall be at peace!

—Will Thomas Withrow.

Making Your Home Gale Proof

An Instructive Talk on the Protective Value of Trees in Offsetting Wind Damage.

By Arthur Herbert Richardson, M.A., M.F.

Following the hot weather which was pretty general throughout Eastern Canada during the early part of June, the country was visited by wind and rain storms which in some sections assumed the form of tornadoes. In some places the violence of the wind and the damage done exceeded anything in the memory of old inhabitants—roofs were lifted off, orchards were laid low, heavy telephone and hydro lines were splintered like so much matchwood, and roadside trees, especially isolated specimens, were cruelly dealt with. It was the misfortune of the writer to be caught in the path of one of these storms, and view the swathe of destruction left in its path. When the storm had abated somewhat, and as the road was blocked by fallen poles and broken limbs, shelter was sought in a nearby house.

On approaching, it was observed that no damage had been done there. The orchard by which it was surrounded was practically intact. Flower pots along the verandah rail were not disturbed and in fact the occupant did not realize the havoc done by the storm until they came to the road and viewed the surrounding country.

Enlisting Nature.

Now why was this house spared more than the rest? There was no luck, nor the hand of Providence, nor anything of that kind involved, but just the practical good sense of an ancestor who had protected his home by allowing a large clump of trees to stand between him and the prevailing winds of his part of the country. In short, he had enlisted nature to assist him in moments of her violence and incidentally have at hand a source for an odd stick of timber and some fuel as well as a spot of beauty close at hand.

The use of trees for the protection of property may be conveniently divided into three groups. First, hedges which consist of a single row of trees or shrubs and which usually are not allowed to grow more than six or eight feet in height. They are set out not so much for the protection they afford as for their beauty and landscape effect. However, in some cases such as gardens and nursery compartments they are often planted for protection as much as for their aesthetic value and afford shelter from desiccating winds of summer and help to hold snow in winter.

Secondly, windbreaks or shelter belts: These are usually planted around fields in crop, or buildings, and consist of one or two rows of trees which are allowed to grow uninterrupted to their full height. These are planted usually for their practical worth, but are also a source of pleasure to the owner as well as to the casual passer-by.

The third protective arrangement for trees is the small clump or the farm lot which may be so arranged that it serves a double purpose. It may consist of an old cut-over area, protected from cattle and allowed to form a dense cover, or it may be an area of a couple of acres planted with young stock.

Although mention has been made of

hedges it is not the intention of the writer to discuss the use of trees in this regard in the present article, but to stress the value of windbreaks or shelter belts, and clumps of trees, and what effect they have on the objects they are intended to protect. Also, as both shelter belts and clumps of trees are alike in so far as they form a barrier against the elements, their value and what they are intended to do may be treated simultaneously.

How Shelter Belts Act.

When the cold winds of winter or the hot drying winds of summer, come in contact with a wall of foliage, their and behind the obstruction. The greatest effect which the windbreak has, of course, is on its leeward side, and experiments have shown that the wall of foliage is fairly close, as is found for example in a row of white spruce with branches to the ground, the wind is slowed up in this direction ten feet for every foot the trees are in height.

This means then that fields in crop, especially where the growth is rapid and tall, such as with corn, the area is protected considerably from violent wind storms. Also when the drying winds of summer are retarded in this way, it means less evaporation from the soil, resulting in the ultimate conservation of moisture. In dry years this may mean a big difference in crops. In winter such fields are benefited by a more even layer of snow.

It is not an uncommon sight after a wind storm to see orchard trees mangled and destroyed in many cases beyond repair. True, the trees in a large orcharding area are a protection to themselves, but where they are open to the broad sweep of the wind, they may be sheltered considerably by a few rows of evergreens.

Houses and buildings may be made more comfortable by either erecting them in the lee of a young stand of timber, or by planting a clump to windward, if the area is bare of trees. For the protection of buildings, several rows of trees or a few acres planted

solid is more preferable than a single row or two. Where only a single row of trees meets the force of the wind, and where they are reaching maturity, they are apt to be up-rooted or have their tops broken off, endangering the property they are intended to protect. Buildings sheltered in this way are protected from the penetrating blasts of winter, resulting in less fuel to be burned and less feed for stock. Besides, in summer, the cool shade of trees about the house goes far to making the place a home.

Plant Several Rows, Not One.

In localities where soil has a tendency to be sandy, or where roadways are action of both are much alike—trees are invaluable. In such work, one row of trees is almost prohibitive, especially if planted near the object to be protected, as they are sure to defeat the purpose for which they are set out. If only one row can be planted it should be set well back from any special area to be protected. If possible, however, several rows, spaced ten or twelve feet apart, are preferable.

Aside from the foregoing direct benefits which may be obtained from protective planting, there are also indirect returns which may be had from trees set out in this way. On stock and dairying farms clumps of trees afford protection during the heat of the day and it is not an uncommon sight to see animals retreat to the shelter of trees which border the fields. Birds also are attracted by the nesting possibilities of a small grove or fringe of trees and to the one so inclined a bird sanctuary may be soon established in this way.

Usually in forest tree planting, in Eastern Canada at least, preparation of the soil before planting is not recommended. However, in Western Canada, and anywhere, where quick returns are demanded from evergreens or where hardwoods are to be planted, some preparation is necessary. If a man intends to plant an acre or two, either in a clump or in a wide strip,

the area should be summer fallowed and worked and worked up for spring planting. If it is intended to plant two or three rows, and this is preferable for a good windbreak, the area should be treated in the same way. When planted in rows the trees should be spaced eight to twelve feet apart alternately in the rows. Over an acre the planting distance should be six by six. For the first year at least the trees should be cultivated sufficiently to keep down weeds, and if additional care can be given they may be mulched with a strawy manure.

If a windbreak is to serve its best purpose both summer and winter, their leave in the autumn, break the force of the wind to a certain extent, and especially if they are planted in clumps, but not so effectively either summer or winter as a wall of conifers on which the branches have been allowed to grow down to the ground.

White pine is a tree which is pretty well known and can be grown successfully on most soils, a heavy clay being the one it prefers least. Some care might have to be given this species owing to the encroachment of the White Pine Blister Rust, also the White Pine Weevil. But in a small area such as the windbreak would occupy, such attention would not be great.

A grove of white pine, or an avenue formed by this species is hard to excel—and the work of the wind in twisting and bending an old White Pine only adds to its beauty.

Scotch pine is a species which, not being a native of this continent, is becoming quite popular for planting purposes. It will grow on poorer soil than White Pine, and like the White pine, will not thrive on clay.

Red pine is a native of Ontario and when allowed to grow in the open with branches to the ground, assumes a very bushy and decorative form. It could be used for lawn planting and a row of this species near the farm buildings would be an added attraction and protection. It prefers a poor soil, but also does well on anything but a heavy clay.

Most Popular Species.

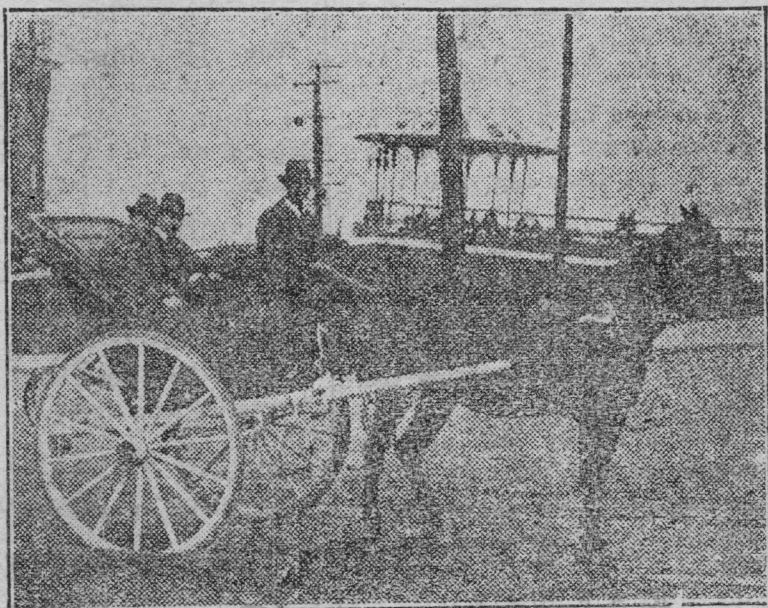
Spruce is perhaps the most popular species for windwork purposes, Norway spruce being the most common, although it is not a native of this continent. Its form and beauty is well known. It can be grown on most soils, including heavy land and prefers some moisture. White spruce is used somewhat in Eastern Canada for this work and as its foliage is more compact in large trees and of a more silvery tinge, its use should increase.

White cedar, the common species, is frequently used for hedges and sometimes for windbreaks. The foliage is very compact and because of this it is sometimes used for planting underneath other species to form an additional windbreak at their trunks. This tree prefers a moist site and will grow on most soils.

In conclusion a last caution may be added; be sure and place the protective belt or clump between the object to be sheltered and the prevailing winds, also do not plant trees too near buildings as they may become a nuisance when they grow up.



Called Him Everything Else.
"Did she call him back?"
"Think not — but she called him about everything else."



QUEBEC'S OLD-FASHIONED CALECHE

In only one city on the continent can be found the quaint French-Canadian caleches. They are patronized by thousands of tourists to the ancient capital, each year, who enjoy riding in the two-wheeled carriages.