COMMON LOON

Gavia immer

Length, about 32 inches

The loon, with its loud laugh and its weird calls and cries, is one of the characteristic features of salt water and the larger fresh waters across the continent. It has in the past suffered considerably from thoughtless and unsportsmanlike pursuit, but now public opinion is reinforcing the laws for its protection, and it will probably return to many of our summer resort waters from whence it has been driven.

The Loon is a wonderful diver and, when once on the wing, a strong flier, but it is almost helpless on land. It lays two brown-spotted, dark olive eggs close to the edges of freshwater lakes where it can slide easily into its favourite element.

When the young are hatched, they take to the water immediately, and on the calm days throughout the summer the family can often be seen playing together almost like kittens.

The young birds as they leave in the autumn wear a grey and white plumage quite unlike their parents. The following season they usually spend at sea, off our coasts, and do not return to the inland nesting localities until mature, two or perhaps three years later.

(Series A, No. 1)

National Museum of Canada, Ottawa
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EARED GREBE

*Colymbus caspicus*  
Le Grèbe à cou noir

Length, about 13 inches

Though common on the sloughs of the Prairie Provinces and the marshy valley ponds of southern British Columbia, the Eared Grebe is accidental in eastern Canada.

It is somewhat like the Horned Grebe, but note the black instead of red neck, the upright, pointed, helmet-like crest and smooth face, instead of the lower lying “horns” and the deeply ruffled cheeks.

It nests in communities, in many cases of large size, in the deep water marshes in nests of vegetable waste, gathered from the surface or dredged from the bottom. Its eggs are three to four in a set, dull white, usually much soiled, and are covered with the nest material when left by the parent.

It feeds on aquatic life, insects, crustaceans, and some small fish, though probably the damage it does to the latter is unappreciable.

The plumage of its breast was at one time largely used for millinery trimming.

(Series A, No. 2)  
Found from coast to coast, the heron is a familiar sight.

It is often found near the shores of rivers and lakes, especially in the spring and summer. The heron is known for its long legs and sharp beak, which it uses to catch fish and other small animals.

The Great Blue Heron is a large bird, standing about 4 to 5 feet tall. It is found throughout North America and is known for its distinctive black and white plumage.

*Ardea herodias*

**CREAT BLUE HERON**
AMERICAN BITTERN

Botaurus lentiginosus

Length, about 28 inches

The booming of the lonely bittern is a favourite subject of Old World poets. The local names of "Stake-driver" and "Thunder-pumper," by which this bird is called, relate to the strange, gurgling, squasy, dull hammering sounds it utters as a love song in the depths of the lonely and mysterious marshes.

The bitterns are more heavily built than herons and are birds of reedy or grassy marshlands rather than broad, open flats and muddy shallows. They glide through the narrow ways feeding on luckless frog, newt, minnow, and insect by quick, silent approach and lightning bill, rather than by statuesquely standing at post to await what comes.

Bitterns are common in suitable localities across the continent and are equally at home in the smallest grassy slough, along the smaller creeks, and in great marshy stretches.

(Series A, No. 4) National Museum of Canada, Ottawa.
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The address may be written here
joined across the gullet. A single description usually

beak and neck ("stocking"). The three black.

All these have the black boundary.

a large Mallard Duck, to the big.

Honk.

There are several races in Canada, different

southern border on the prairies and westward.

eastern Canada, but down and across the

eastern continent, breeding well to the north in

county. Goose breeding is found across the

over and winter is at hand.

departing ranks. Here is the mid-day's.

form, and in the autumn. It is

has scarcely held, it gives us the first hopes

V-formation and its wild honking comes.

This is the wild Goose of North America

Tentha, about 25-39 inches.

Brenna canadensis.

B. Berenoe hemipalmate.

CANADA GOOSE
MALLARD

Anas platyrhynchos

Le Canard malard

Length, about 23 inches

One of the most famous of the ducks. In the Old Country it alone of all the ducks is dignified by the popular name "The Wild Duck." It is also the parent stock from which most of our domestic ducks are descended.

It inhabits much of southern Canada but is rare in the Maritime Provinces and reaches the height of its abundance in the Prairie Provinces, where it is sought by sportsmen for both its sporting value and its table excellence. Stubble-fed Mallard is the delight of the epicure, and its large size only increases the feast.

It is a typical pond or surface-feeding duck, tipping in the water with head down to the bottom and tail pointed-frantically toward the zenith, instead of diving.

It lays eight to twelve greyish or greenish white eggs in a nest on the ground, sometimes at considerable distance from water.

(Series A, No. 6)
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The address may be written here
WOOD DUCK

_Aix sponsa_

Length, about 18.5 inches

Probably the most beautiful duck in the world and quite a favourite for domestication on ornamental waters in public and private parks.

This lovely little duck originally was common on most of the ox-bows and dead waters of the more southern parts of eastern Canada and British Columbia. Owing to its beauty, the ease with which it could be “jumped” in its quiet woodland waters, and the fact that it nested in the earliest settled areas, it became greatly reduced in number. Fortunately, special efforts at protection have had their effect and now it seems to be recovering something of its old numbers over most of its range.

Contrary to what is usually expected of a duck, it builds its nest in hollow trees, often at considerable distance from the ground, from whence the young tumble down in safety and are led to water by the parent. In various parts of the country several other species of duck, like the Golden-eye or the Buffle-head, nest in trees and are popularly, though incorrectly, known as “Wood Duck.”

(Series A, No. 7) National Museum of Canada, Ottawa.
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LESSER SCAUP DUCK

*Aythya affinis*  
Le Petit Morillon

Length, about 16.5 inches

More commonly known as "Lesser Blue-bill" or "Marsh Blue-bill," one of the ducks well known to sportsmen. It is almost exactly similar, except for size, to the Greater Scaup or Greater Blue-bill, a bird that comes earlier in the spring and later in the autumn.

It is more common in the interior and on the west coast than in the east but is not generally so well regarded for the table as some other species.

(Series A, No. 8)  
RED-BREASTED Merganser

Mergus serrator

Le Bec-Scie à poitrine rousse

Length, about 22 inches

One of the birds commonly known as “Saw-bills” or “Fish Ducks,” disappointing to both sportsman and epicure, as they are generally regarded as worthless for the table.

Undoubtedly both this merganser and its close relative, the American Merganser, eat an appreciable amount of small fish, but unless they occur in unusual numbers on waters where angling is the primary interest, their depredations can be looked upon with complacency.

It is prolific and deposits eight or ten buffy eggs in a nest on the ground, sometimes amidst rocks, near water on the lakes and clear streams of the northern spruce belt. The brood of mother and little downlings abroad on the open water would seem like easy prey; but, as many canoeists have found, they can splash their way over the surface with a speed that taxes the best paddler, and then, just when about to be overtaken, presto, all dive, to come up in opposite directions to scatter to the four points of the compass.

(Series A, No. 9) National Museum of Canada, Ottawa.
Red-tailed Hawk

Buteo jamaicensis

The tail, about 20 inches
The Marsh Hawk

Length, about 19 inches

Circus cyaneus

MARSH HAWK
RUFFED GROUSE

*Bonasa umbellus*  
La Gélinotte huppée

Length, about 17 inches

The Ruffed Grouse, variously known as “Partridge,” “Birch Partridge”, or even in some sections “Pheasant,” is probably the king of American game birds. An inhabitant of the denser woods, it lies well to a dog, rises at the feet and hurtles away through the brush with a surprising suddenness that shakes the nerves of all but the seasoned shooter.

Unfortunately, this gamy wisdom has not been learned by all the species immediately, and in the more recently settled sections where experience has not eliminated the unwise, it shows a foolish innocence in the presence of human enemies that is but too tempting an opportunity for the pot-hunter.

The Ruffed Grouse is more or less common through the wooded sections across the continent.

(Series A, No. 12)  
SHARP-TAILED GROUSE
*Pediaecetes pheasantellus*  La Gélinotte à queue fine
Length, about 17.5 inches

PRAIRIE CHICKEN
*Tympanuchus cupido*  La Poule des prairies
Length, about 18 inches

These two birds are more or less confused throughout our prairie and western sections under the name “Prairie Chicken,” though properly the name belongs to the latter alone.

The Sharp-tail is a bird of the bush and the bluffy prairies and occurs in the north from Hudson Bay west to Alaska, coming down to our southern borders on the prairies and westward.

The Prairie Chicken can be told from the Sharp-tail by its unpointed tail and by bars across the breast instead of a multitude of small v-marks. It is distinctly a bird of the prairies and has worked north, following the wheat fields into our Prairie Provinces, within historical times. It is the true “Prairie Chicken” of the west but in Canada is more generally known as “Square-tail,” and its proper cognomen is often given to the previously mentioned species.

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The address may be written here
AMERICAN COOT

Fulica americana

La Foulque américaine

Length, about 15 inches

The Coot or Mud-hen looks like a duck and is often mistaken for it by the general observer. In summer it inhabits the reed-beds of our sloughs and marshes, swimming the channels and gliding familiarly through their tangled density with almost mysterious ease. As nesters the birds are aggressive, guard their chosen territory well, and seem to be respected if not feared by their bird neighbours. In the autumn they gather in dense flocks out on the broader water, sometimes looking like black rafts at sea.

Coots are not generally regarded as legitimate game birds by experienced gunners, and their pursuit is usually left to the pot-hunter and the juvenile or budding sportsman.

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The Black-bellied Plover in its differing seasonal plumages is so much like the Golden Plover that the general observer is very likely to confuse them. The most obvious character of this species is the black spot of the axillaries under the wing and the white rump, both quite visible under ordinarily favourable conditions in flight.

The species is found more or less commonly in migration across the continent on its seasonal flights to and from its breeding grounds in the Far North.
LEAST SANDPIPER

_Erolia minutilla_  
Le Bécasseau minuscule  
Length, about 6 inches

SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER

_Ereunetes pusillus_  
Le Bécasseau semi-palmé  
Length, about 6 inches

These, our two smallest waders, are very much alike in general appearance and habits and are often lumped together in popular parlance as “Peeps.”

Spring and autumn they are characteristic features of mud flats or sandy beaches, occurring in large flocks that glean the debris of the wet margins or flash white in the sun in irregular heliographing flocks that blow like wisps of snow over the dark waters.

They are both found across the continent, and breed in the Barren Grounds of the north.
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WILSON’S PHALAROPE

Steganopus tricolor

Length, about 8.75 inches

The Phalaropes form an anomalous group of waders in which the female is the more highly coloured member of the pair, and the male does the incubating and takes most of the family cares.

Wilson’s Phalarope is the only Phalarope that breeds short of the arctic tundra, and in the summer is one of the most beautiful and graceful inhabitants of our prairie sloughs and pools. Unlike other waders it swims readily and constantly, gyrating about in the little open lagoons and pirouetting with fairy-like grace. Its nest is in the grass adjoining.

It is typically a prairie species occurring east or west only on rare occasions.

The Passenger Pigeon is a sad example of the decline and fall of a once incredibly numerous species. Early historians tell of flocks that in passing darkened the air for hours, of tree limbs broken down with weight of their numbers. Later accounts are of carloads of their bodies on their way to market. Today the only representatives of the species are stuffed, in our museums and collections.

At the same time, the Mourning Dove, of comparatively similar requirements, has persisted in flourishing and under the conditions of civilization that exterminated its relative, has probably increased. Its mournful call can still be heard in the more southern parts of our country from coast to coast.
GREAT HORNED OWL

*Bubo virginianus*  
Le Grand Due

Length, about 22 inches

The largest, strongest, and fiercest owl we have. With its great yellow eyes, conspicuous feathery ear-tufts, and large size it is not likely to be confused with other species. Mice and rabbits are its staple food, but is has the strength and weight to tackle game much larger than itself, and little that wears feathers is safe from its attacks. In the day time it is harmless enough as it seeks the shade of dense forests and dreams the time away, but at night it sallies forth on silent wing and few dispute its right of might.

The Horned Owl is distributed across the continent but divides up into a number of geographical races. The birds of the northeast and northwest coasts are very black, whereas those of the mid-sections of the country are very white, occasionally almost immaculate.

(Series A, No. 19)  
Rufous Hummingbird

*Selasphorus rufus*  Le Colibri roux

Length, about 3.5 inches

Eastern Canada has only one hummingbird, but British Columbia has three. Of these the Rufous is the commonest and the most showy. Hummingbirds are nectar-feeders but a certain amount of minute insects is necessary to their welfare. Flowers always attract them, but often great numbers gather about the black birches that have been drilled by sapsuckers. They sip from the dripping boughs, humming from spot to spot, fight furiously like elfin knights in jewelled armour, and fill the air with their humming wings and faint sharp squeaks.

The nest is a gem of craftsmanship—a deftly and deeply hollowed knob of the softest plant-down covered with bits of grey lichen and fastened to a mossy twig with spider’s web.

(Series A, No. 20) National Museum of Canada, Ottawa.
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cause some difficulty to fish are also eliminated, the Kingfisher may be given primarily to trout. When other economics in specially protected waters such as those upon the smaller ones; but occasionally, compared to the toll the bigger fish I rely upon the smaller ones. It can be looked upon with leniency, as even a sudden splashy dive, Ordinarily its depredations on small fry that it captures by a sudden view, the Kingfisher will be found. It feeds clear enough to be perceived by a bird’s-eye view wherever water contains fish and is of our streams, ponds, lakes, and coasts. The Kingfisher with its striking blue and white coloration, large ragged crest, and length, about 13 inches.
bird would be unable to find a home.

Without the flicker many another
several, species dependent upon such cavities for
nest-holes are occupied by many other
birds for its numerous abandoned
nest-holes may be regarded as the carpenter
which to excavate the nest. Indeed, the
Deak stubs, telegraph poles, are even the
casual observer.

sudden calls attract the attention of even
dead trees in the shadings, and its loud,
sky as it holds to the limpid stream of the
wine surface and conspicuous white pump as
these terms. The flickers, Golden-winged Woodpecker
are the uncommon and more distinctive of
these numbers, and not many birds
of northern forests, North America east of
these ranges over practically all

Length, about 12 inches

Gomphus auritus

YELLOW-SHAPED FLICKER
Hairy Woodpecker

_Dendrocopos villosus_ Le Pic chevelu

Length, about 9.5 inches

This is the larger of our two small, black and white spotted woodpeckers. In one form or another it is common wherever there are trees in Canada. It is a familiar sight in our garden and city shade trees and in our orchards.

Economically, it is entirely favourable to man. It may dig into the tree trunks but never without due cause and only to remove some deep-seated grub that is already undermining a fair exterior and threatening the tree's existence.

The Hairy Woodpeckers of the far west are darker by colour than the eastern ones, and the whites are distinctly smoky in tone instead of pure. This form is known as Harris's Hairy Woodpecker.
The eastern kingbird is a small, active bird found near water. It has a black head and a white breast, and it typically hunts insects near the ground. The bird is known for its aggressive defense of its territory, and it will attack anything that comes near it. Its loud, shrill call is often heard near water bodies. The eastern kingbird is a common sight in North America, especially in the eastern United States and Canada.
HORNED LARK

*Eremophila alpestris*  
L’Alouette cornue

Length, about 7.75 inches

The Horned Lark is distinctly a bird of the prairies and probably originally was more or less confined to the treeless mid-continent and the high barrens north, but with the advent of civilization and the disappearance of the eastern forests it has spread eastward over the artificial man-made prairies thus established. Now throughout the fields of southern Ontario and Quebec and across the continent, in one form or another it is a fairly common bird.

In the winter, large flocks come down from the barrens of the north but show slightly different characters from those of the resident or breeding birds.

Horned Larks are easily recognized by the prominent feather tufts like miniature horns at the sides of the head. They are very early breeders, often nesting before snow is quite off the ground, and have an interesting flight song suggestive of that of the Skylark of Europe.

(Series A, No. 25)  
POST CARD

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TREE SWALLOW

*Iridoprocne bicolor*  
L’*Hirondelle bicolore*

Length, about 6 inches

The Tree Swallow or White-bellied Swallow is a hole-nester. Its natural nesting places are hollows in isolated dead trees, or old woodpecker holes wherever found in the open. It comes readily to bird boxes and is probably the most common tenant of such structures in our gardens.

The flashing white of its vest and underparts, in contrast with the steely gleam of its back above, and its pretty twittering warbles in the very early spring make it a most attractive bird to have about. It is often mistaken for the Purple Martin by those unfamiliar with birds, but the pure white instead of dark grey or solid black breast, to say nothing of its smaller size, is a very conspicuous distinction.

(Series A, No. 26)  
BARN SWALLOW

Hirundo rustica

L’Hirondelle des granges

Length, about 7 inches

The favourite spot for the Barn Swallow to place its rough mud nest is on small projections under the eaves. In barns where there are open rafters, the plates are commonly used and even inside on collar beams and tops of purlins. The Swallows are domestic and social birds and are likely to form large communities and return year after year to the home of their choice.

They are purely insect feeders, catching their food in the air, and are a decided asset to the farmers. Much like the Cliff Swallow in general appearance, they are easily distinguished by their very deeply forked tails and the solid dark colour of their rumps.
The Gray Jay, Canada Jay, Whiskey Jack, or Camp Robber is well known to the northern hunter but is less familiar to the husbandman of more settled regions. A friend at every campfire, a companion of lonely watches, bold even to familiarity, but a confirmed thief of trifles, it is regarded with an indulgent if somewhat patronizing affection. In spite of its attraction to man and its naïve friendliness for him, perhaps because of it, the Canada Jay never stands civilization. As soon as the lonely camp is replaced by permanent cabin, and stumpy fields spot the virgin forest, Whiskey Jack retires farther into the recesses, and the place of his former abundance knows him no more, except as a stray visitor.

The Canada Jay is found in the spruce forests across the continent.

(Series A No. 28) National Museum of Canada, Ottawa.
BLACK-BILLED MAGPIE

*Pica pica*

Length, about 15 inches

La Pie bavarde

The Magpie in both plumage and character is made up of sharp contrasts of black and white. It has great beauty and intelligence and is a most interesting bird, but it is a natural born robber, and although its intelligence makes its criminality more efficient, sympathy for its attractive qualities often disarms justice. No nest eggs or young birds are safe from its depredations, and it even steals into the poultry runs and plunders in spite of the exasperated owner's watch and ward. Occasionally it also enlarges the harness-galls, bot sores, or other abrasions on horses and cattle to the serious detriment and sometimes even the death of the animal. In spite of its decided picturesque qualities, it is a bird that should be kept in strict control.

It inhabits the western prairies and westward. In the eastern extension of its range in Manitoba, it fluctuates in numbers over a series of years, sometimes locally common, again scarce or absent.

(Series A, No. 29) National Museum of Canada, Ottawa.
AMERICAN CROW

Corvus brachyrhynchos       La Corneille américaine
Length, about 19 inches

The much-discussed Crow is a bird of many phases and, depending on time, place, and local interests, much can be said both for and against it. It is found right across the continent except on the extreme west coast where its place is taken by the Northwest Crow, a very closely allied, but slightly smaller, species of similar habits.

In the east the great objection to the Crow is as a puller of sprouting corn, and scarecrows are a common feature of the fields. In the west its greatest harm is done to nesting game, as through the early summer it is a confirmed, systematic, and efficient nest robber and devourer of young birds. The damage it does to wild life in this direction cannot easily be over-estimated. But the evil it does is seasonal, and the number of cut worms, grubs, and grasshoppers it devours through much of the year may be an important agricultural factor. The Crow may be as black as it is painted, but it is a glossy fellow and shows many bright highlights to confuse the picture.

BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE
Parus atricapillus
La Mésange à tête noire
Length, about 5.25 inches

MOUNTAIN CHICKADEE
Parus gambeli
La Mésange de montagnes
Length, about 5.25 inches

These two chickadees are so nearly alike in form, colour, and habit as to bear treatment together. The Black-capped extends across the continent practically from coast to coast. The Mountain Chickadee is confined to the western mountains. They are both permanent residents wherever found and do not migrate in winter.

The chickadee is the merriest and happiest denizen of the woods. No matter what the weather may be, its soft "Chickadee-dee-dee" or its sweet, clear "Spring’s here" is always cheery and bright. It hangs from the airiest branch-tips and swings right or wrong side up, with equal ease, while it investigates with microscopic eye for minute insect food that might grow large and great with damaging possibilities.

(Series A No. 31) National Museum of Canada, Ottawa.
The characteristic sounds of the winter woods, "quack, quack, quack," that is one of the
usual note is a dull less common in more southern woodlands. The White-breasted Nuthatch is more or
concealed as for the mealtimes. When open, perhaps as much for the worm some thin crevices and there, "hatch" on back the world seems nothing to them. Then
intestine insects, though they occasionally food is mainly insect eggs, larvae, and bark. The
lack of gravity that rule underground, as the case may be, with equal
length, about 6 inches. The Nuthatches are indistinguishable search.

Sitta carolinensis

La Sillette 4

WHILE-BREASTED NUTHATCH
AMERICAN ROBIN

*Turdus migratorius*  
Le Merle américain

Length, about 10 inches

There is no Canadian who does not know the familiar Robin. It is one of the very first birds to arrive in spring as a herald of better days to come. It builds its mud-lined nest under the eaves of our porches. It hunts our lawns for worms and grubs, and in the autumn it lingers with us until it strips the berries from the rowan tree in the garden. At all times it is a familiar friend, and it has made a place for itself in our affections that is filled by no other bird.

Of course, it is no very close relation of the European Robin Red-breast of song and story, so well known in the Old Country, but was named Robin by the first settlers of the country in memory of that bird which it somewhat resembles and whose place it seems to take in the new land. It is found almost everywhere across forested parts of Canada.
the colors of the golden sunset. The shadows of the spruce forest seem to match their pure tones coming from the black spruce. Their songs are not long nor complicated, but they are among the most musical and melodious voices of any of our American birds. The thrushes share with the hermit thrushes the reputation of having the most beautiful songs of any of the birds. They are both birds of the deep woods on the other hand, and the faint plump eye-rings of the one and the faint brown rings of the other can be distinguished from each other. However, the two thrushes are nearly alike in appearance.

**Length, about 7 inches**

*Hylocichla unicolor*

**OLIVE-BACKED THRUSH**

*Hylocichla minima*

**GRAY-CHEEKELED THRUSH**

*Hylocichla leucocephala*

**LENGTH, about 7 inches**

*La Caille à dos oblitéré*
Next to the Robin the Bluebird is perhaps the most beloved of our common birds. It nests readily in bird boxes in the suburbs, and with its pretty warbling song, gentle ways, and wonderful cerulean colour, it endears itself to all. Coming early while the fields are still bare and sere, it is one of the harbingers of spring, and its soft notes coming down from above in the autumn mournfully presage the coming of stern winter.

Once, in many sections one of the commonest of birds, its numbers are now, from some unknown cause, reduced. It still nests in many gardens, but when it does so, it is a distinct matter of congratulation to the owner instead of the matter of course it once was.

The Eastern Bluebird is found over most of southern Canada westward, including the eastern prairies.
MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD

Sialia currucoides  
Le Merle bleu de montagnes

Length, about 7 inches

As the common Eastern Bluebird is to the east, so the Mountain Bluebird is to the west, from much of the prairies to the coast. It comes readily to bird boxes and has all the pretty ways of the eastern bird. It inhabits the gardens and builds in the out-buildings, and is equally at home in the heat-baked coulées of the bad lands and the lonely passes of mountains and brulés. Its pretty warbling song gives a feeling of happy peace, and its delicate ethereal blue seems not of this world but of Maeterlinck’s Bluebird of Happiness come to earth.
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The address may be written here
Shrikes are song birds that have developed raptorial habits. They feed on the larger insects and on mice and small birds, and in proportion to their size they may be as destructive as any hawk. Though armed with stout hooked bills, their talons are weak and unfitted for holding prey, and from their habit of impaling their food on thorns, the better to dismember it, they are often called Butcher-birds.

This is the common summer shrike across the continent. It usually inhabits open cattle-grazed meadows and builds its nest in dense thorn bushes whenever they are available. It sometimes utters a very agreeable song.

The shrike that is seen in winter is a larger, hardier species breeding in the Far North.

(Series A, No. 37)
HOUSE SPARROW (left)

*Passer domesticus*  
Le Moineau domestique  
Length, 5 to 6 inches

This Old World alien was first brought from England to North America about 1850 and released in New York. Additional introductions were made in the next 25 years. It has now spread throughout the settled parts of North America. Its harsh chirping is a familiar sound in most Canadian cities, towns, and farmyards, both in summer and winter. The female is duller coloured than the male, and she lacks his black throat patch.

EUROPEAN STARLING (right)

*Sturnus vulgaris*  
L'Étourneau sansonnet  
Length, 7.5 to 8.5 inches

This is another alien. It was introduced from Europe into New York City in 1890 and now is found in most settled parts of North America, often in large flocks. Although its plumage is seen to be highly iridescent at close range, it looks like a short-tailed blackbird in the distance. Male and female are coloured alike.

(Series A, No. 38)  
SOLITARY VIREO

Vireo solitarius

Length, about 5.5 inches

Among the flocks of warblers that pass through the woods and orchards, spring and autumn, are some similar but rather heavier and less active birds dressed in full olive greens and yellows. These are likely to be vireos, of which there are several species. The slate-blue head with rather conspicuous white facial spot are the distinctive characters of the Solitary Vireo.

This bird is found in the woodlands across the continent. The British Columbian representative of the species is slightly different from the eastern one and is known in distinction as Cassin’s Vireo.
to the mountains.

It is common from eastern Canada west

median line.

black cap is solid and not divided by a white
does not creep, is distinctly larger, and the
pattern is the Black-pollled Warbler, but it
black and White Warbler.

The only bird resembling it in colour or
recognized as the Black and White Warbler.
only bird, creeping woodpecker-like about
white bird, sharply streaked, black and

Length, about 5.25 inches

MALE PAAUDETE NOIRE ET BLANCHE

BLACK AND WHITE WARBLER
The Yellow Warbler or Summer Yellow-

**Dendroica petechia**

Length, about 5 inches
MARYLAND YELLOW-THROAT

Geothlypis trichas

La Fauvette masquée

Length, about 5.25 inches

The Maryland Yellow-throat is an inhabitant of the long grass of the wet meadows or drier swamps across the continent. In such places its little "Witchery, witchery, witchery" song is characteristic, as is also the rough scolding note with which it greets every intruder and gives him a piece of its mind. It seems to gain courage from the fact that it wears a mask. It can well be suspected that could its language be interpreted it would not bear repetition.
constant tail-flicking. Often be recognized by its restlessness and intensity where colors are lost to sight. It can be found in the high up in the trees where the leaves are lost to sight. High up in the tree tops of higher growth. High up in the deciduous trees, moving around and sometimes across them.

American Redstart is a bird of the deciduous

Mountains and sometimes across them. Across the continent to the eastern Rocky Mountains and sometimes across them. It is found but only distantly related to it. It is found after a familiar Old Country species, a brightly colored American bird. Length, about 5.5 inches.

Solorhaga rubicilla La Faust ete. Hambovante

AMERICAN REDSTART
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British Columbia. Where it is common, its esthetic  

The Bobolink is the rollicking jovous  

The Bobolink is the rollicking jovous  

Le Gœuf  

Bobolink
RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD

*Agelaius phoeniceus*  
Le Carouge à épaulettes  
Length, about 9.5 inches

Most of the reedy pools and marshes of the cultivated parts of Canada have their colony of Red-wings. They are most spectacular birds with their glossy black uniforms with striking red epaulettes that have given them a common name of “Soldier Blackbirds.”

Though they can hardly be called songsters in the conventional use of the word, they are generous with many clear whistled calls and rolls that make a very pleasing accompaniment to the activities of their gay communities.

The nest is a well-woven structure in the tops of previous year’s reeds, lined with cat-tail down and other soft fibre. As the new growth comes up through the old it makes a pretty structure. The eggs are pale blue with many irregular hieroglyphic scrawls of black.

(Series A, No. 45)  
BALTIMORE ORIOLE

*Icterus galbula*

L'Oriole de Baltimore

Length, about 7.5 inches

Named after Lord Baltimore, the patron of the early settlement of Maryland, whose bright livery it wears, the Baltimore Oriole is a bird of the east, extending in Canada to the base of the Rocky mountains. It is particularly a bird of the park lands, and great trees standing isolated or in clumps, especially elms, are its delight. Its nest is a work of art. Felted, and woven of vegetable fibre, wool, string, or any kind of fluff, it forms a substantial deep bag suspended at the ends of long, lithe, or weeping bough tips where even the red squirrel dare not go. In the branches the brilliant male sings throughout the summer, demonstrating with its clear, flute-like whistles that bright feather and beautiful voice can go together. In the winter, while it is sojourning in the warmth of South America, its deserted nest whips and cracks at the ends of the long, lash-like stems, defying with its perfect workmanship the storms of successive seasons that scatter lesser structures in fragments over the ground.

SCARLET TANAGER

Piranga olivacea

Le Tangara écarlate

Length, about 7 inches

This wondrously and tropically coloured bird is a more or less common species over most of eastern Canada. However, as a rule it hides its showiness in the concealing tree tops, and the ordinary observer regards a sight of it as quite an event.

It has a very pretty warbling song like that of a glorified Robin, but the best suggestion of its nearby presence and the advisability of looking closer for it is its low "Chip-churr" that is its most characteristic note.

trees where they were almost unknown.
and they now are almost regular winter visitors.
They have found their way to most rich
feeding grounds and with our clever
planting of trees they have been
able to find a good place to
feed. Originally they rarely came
down to the coast. Now, however,
they have found new feeding
places and have entered the
wilderness. This is a good thing.

They feed on the fruit of the
maple and oak tree.

They feed on insects,
which they catch in
the air. They have a
very fine beak.

They are about 8 inches
in length.

The Cross-beak, or
Hesperiphona
virescens

EVENING CROSSBEAK
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AMERICAN GOLDFINCH

*Spinus tristis*  
Le Chardonneret jaune

Length, about 5 inches

The Goldfinch, Thistle Bird, or Wild Canary is a familiar figure over most cultivated parts of Canada. Goldfinch is a name given in memory of a somewhat similar but entirely different bird of the Old Country. Thistle Bird suggests one of its favourite foods, though sunflower seeds are its delight. “Wild Canary” has an obvious derivation, though it is not a very close relative of that familiar species. A bird it may be confused with is the Yellow Warbler or Summer Yellow-bird, but note that that species is all yellow and lacks the black wings, tail, and jaunty cap.

The Goldfinch is a delightful little fellow, usually going in small groups or little flocks, with pretty ways and cheery and canary-like chirps and song. A row of sunflowers in the garden is a never failing attraction to it in fruit time, though seeding lettuce heads or many garden seeds are appreciated.

(Series A, No. 49)

SONG SPARROW

Melospiza melodia

Length, about 3.25 inches

Next to the Robin perhaps the Song Sparrow is the most generally distributed and familiarly homy of our birds. Its dark, inconspicuously streaked plumage and rather retiring ways make it a less showy bird than many, but its cheery song coming first thing in spring and lasting until well into the summer, and its mouse-like form gliding back into the brush or the density of the flower beds, just outside the door, endear it to all.

A number of sparrows look much like the Song Sparrow, but its distinctive marks are the sharply spotted breast, aggregating in a larger blotch in the centre, and the lack of white in its tail.

The Song Sparrows of British Columbia are much darker and richer coloured than those of the east and are referred to distinct subspecies.

(Series A, No. 50)

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