



Blue Jay Chatter

L. T. Carmichael, Editor.

(Photos by the Editor)



As we go to press, a magnificent Autumn follows a long period of cool and wet weather. An abundant harvest is being gathered in. Endless fields of golden grain are being swathed and combined. Here and there fields are dotted with stooks—a picturesque reminder of a familiar era which is passing from the Western scene.

Trucks of grain will soon be moving along the highways in an almost endless procession towards the nearest elevator. The prairie is a hive of industry, engaged in their noble efforts of replenishing and filling the bread baskets of the world.

Never have we seen the September meadows and roadsides more green or more beautiful. Purple and gold predominate—the purple of asters and blazing star—the gold of sunflowers of various species of gum-weed, broom-weed and numerous goldenrods. Edging the popular bluff in the meadow, the Blue Gentian, spring-like in its freshness and appearance, bids another farewell to a summer which is gone.

The sloughs are full of water. They are teeming with fowl and shore birds. Thousands of flocks of ducks, having reached the peak of their cycle of abundance, are congregating in preparation for their hazardous migration to the south. Great numbers of gulls are still circling and wheeling through the air, or dotting the black fallow like numerous balls of snow, cleaning up untold millions of destructive insects to the satisfaction and joy of the farmer. Blackbirds, in ever increasing numbers, growing from small flocks to stupendous armies, put on their annual air display, and fortify themselves with additional nourishment as they prepare to leave us again.

The Yellow Warbles also congregate as they move on; invade our yards and brighten our gardens as they pick up the numerous aphids which this fall cover the stems of many garden flowers, particularly sweet peas. The robins, also, bring all their families and relations—strip the choke-cherry trees of their last vestige of fruit—take a contented dip in the bird bath and pass on for another season.

Our wish to all our readers is a full enjoyment of Nature's autumnal splendors. May they all enjoy the wonder of this annual fall display of plant brilliancy and the mysterious exodus of bird life which follows in its wake.