

## Birds and Moths

By Mrs. F. Bilsbury, Grenfell.

**A**S THE MIGRATION of spring birds is now over and nestlings are taking to the water or the wing, I think it is time to send along my few notes of interest.

After the snow had finally gone and things became more springlike, I started to take short walks, going in a different direction each time. One morning just after a light fall of snow I noticed a fair-sized sparrow-like bird perched on the side of a wagon-box filled with seed wheat. As I saw at once it was a stranger to me, for it had a black face. Later I identified it from Taverner as a Harris Sparrow. Another came and joined the first but after two days I did not see them again.

To date (June 25) I have seen more robins and orioles in and around our trees than I can ever remember. There are at least five pairs of orioles and even more robins. A pair of Kingbirds returned again to nest but in a different grove. At one time I saw a flock of seven. Several pairs of Mallards, Pintail, Baldpate, Teal, Canvasback and Red-head Ducks have stayed in our slough.

Two farmers have reported finding hawks nesting on the ground in combined stubble. Can some member tell me why these hawks are grounded, instead of nesting in trees as is their usual habit?

Although there is a bounty paid for crow and magpie eggs and legs, my husband and I have forbidden any such robbing to be carried out on or about our farm. With the threat of cutworms, wireworms, grasshoppers, etc., we find Nature's way of ridding ourselves of these pests less costly than poisons, sprays and what not. Last year crows were noted in flocks of from 50 to 75 on some parts of a fallow field. This year this land is in crop and no bald places are seen.

Crows, Magpies, Blue Tern and Marsh Hawks follow my husband as he plows with the tractor; the hawks getting mice that flee from the advance of the machine, the crows gathering worms.

We caught a number of caterpillars in the cocoon stage and the

moths which we raised have been a delight and surprise. We found, quite by accident, that one was a Puss Moth, but we are not able to identify the other two. One moth, rather small, had the appearance of a bumblebee — transparent wings edged in bronze. The other was a lovely fawn color on top, wings edged in deep cream and under-parts rose. Anyone know them?

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### Red Crossbills

Judge L. T. McKim

**I**T is always a thrill to see a new bird. Last week I had that experience when scores of Red Crossbills fed on elm seeds on the Court House lawn and a little girl brought me an injured bird.

Since then several people have reported them on their lawns. A flock has just come to the grounds here as I write (June 28).

These beautiful birds are most irregular in their habits. They may visit a locality for several years in numbers and then not be seen again for a long time. I am surprised to see them at this season when one would expect them to be on their nesting grounds.

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### Conservation Pledge

**I** give my pledge as a Canadian to save and faithfully defend from waste the natural resources of my country—its soil and minerals, its forests, waters and wildlife—

—Author unknown.

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### A Wide Circulation

**T**HE last Issue of the BLUE JAY in some way found its way to Cape Town, and was brought to the attention of Mr. Ernest Middlemiss, Secretary of the Wild Life Protection Society of South Africa.

Mr. Middlemiss was interested. That Society is now on our mailing list.