

HERE'S WHAT IT SAYS !

"What does the Meadowlark say?" Why, "We fed the Israelites", of course! It was of great interest to me to read in the last issue of the "Blue Jay" all the various interpretations of this bird's song, when the one given above was the one I was "brought up on", as it were, although I have heard my mother say that at certain times the lark seems to be in disgruntled mood, for they cried: **"I'll break your leg if you do."**

M. M. Nair, Grande Prairie, Alta.

In this district, possibly because many of the earlier settlers came from Ontario, the Meadowlarks have been singing **'I'm from Peterborough'** However, now I have received ad-

vance notice from the Southern states that this spring, in view of the high price of coffee, our Western Meadowlarks will not be referring to Peterborough but will be using a new song, namely, **"You drink your tea too hot."**

E. W. Van Blaricom, Tisdale

What does the Meadowlark say? To us there was nothing more significant than the advise given at the time of the "dirty thirties". It was called from the fence post and the ridge of the empty granary: **"You have got thirty days"**. I had never heard it before or since.

Arthur Ward, Swift Current

SHARP-TAILED GROUSE

Mrs. H. Rodenberg, Kinloch, Sask

In the last issue of the "Blue Jay" I noticed that Frank Baines of Salt-coats, thinks our Sharp-tailed Grouse are in danger of extinction. He might be right, but around here they seem to be plentiful. All winter they came around the buildings to feed. I have seen as many as ten or twelve at a time.

On April 11 I heard them calling, and looked out the south window. Sure enough, there were six of them coming on the run right for the house, where I throw all my crumbs and scraps. They stayed and had a feed, then they sat around in the warm sun for about 15 minutes. During this time they kept up a continual chatter.

When they decided to move on they came around to our veranda. There was quite a large puddle of snow-water there, so, instead of walking through it, they hopped up on the veranda step and walked across it in single file. While all this was going on I stood in my kitchen door watching. They took no notice of me.

The Pine Grosbeaks come to our bluff once in awhile. They are beautiful and look like pink and red flowers, scattered among the trees. The Horned Larks were here Feb. 20. I saw my first crow, April 7. On April 12 the Juncos arrived. Next

will be the Bluebirds. As a rule they come shortly after the Juncos. The Purple Martins always arrive here on April 29. At first there are only two or three male birds but in a day or two the rest come flying in to their summer home.

The Value of String in Spring

Mrs. E. O. Craig, Oakville, Man.

Ever since I saw a pair of Baltimore Orioles tugging frantically at a string dangling from some article of washing as it hung on the clothes-line, I have cut string into short lengths, not more than eight inches, and have hung pieces on the clothes-lines so that the birds could get them for nest building.

I have been doing this for several years and it seems that more birds take advantage of it every year. At first it was only the Orioles, but last year, Eastern Kingbirds, Goldfinch and some warblers also helped the orioles carry away the strings. The amount of string they carry away is amazing. I got a great deal of pleasure from watching the birds coming, and try to keep a good supply of string on the lines during the nest-building season.