

Black and also Green-headed Mallards; Green and Blue-winged Teal, Canvas Backs, Wood Ducks, Pintails and Shovellers, and it seems most of the ducks are represented here on our many lakes and streams.

In June you may be awakened in the middle of the night by strange weird cries, like insane laughter coming from some moonlit lake; it is only the Loon with his long neck and breast of many colors declaring that he is lord of the lake. The maintenance men used to put out a small net and usually caught enough white-fish and grayling for the six camp families. One night, however, when they lifted the net, all they found was the Loon in the middle of it. It was all tangled up and had scared the fish out. It screamed and flopped helplessly while the men untangled it.

The Rusty and Red-winged Blackbirds are here and many members of the Sparrow families, such as the Pine Siskine, Fox Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, White-throated and White-crowned Sparrows, Chipping Sparrows and the Purple Finch.

Several Thrushes, such as Olive-backed, Varied and Russet, also Flickers and Warblers such as the Myrtle Warbler, Black-poll and Orange-crowned Warblers, are here in summer. Tree Swallows, Barn Swallows and Bank Swallows are also seen here. The Bohemian Waxwing is found deep in the woods and in July the tiny Ruby-throated Humming Bird hovers over the flowers. All these birds are similar to those found in the Peace Country, excepting the gulls.

Two ornithologists from Harvard, who visited the Yukon Experimental Farm at Mile 1019, reported seeing some seventy-nine species of birds within a radius of about sixty miles. This was in June 1948. Thus it is evident that many more birds can be discovered here.

*"Flower in the crannied wall,
I pluck you out of the crannies.
I hold you here, root and all, in my
hand.
Little flower—but if I could understand
What you are, root and all, and all
in all,
I should know what God and man
is."*

Welcome Spring Visitors

By Anne Olson, Big River

LAST FEBRUARY an unusual visitor was observed here—a Saw Whet Owl. He stayed at the hay yard an entire day and then disappeared, returning two weeks later. He was not timid and permitted me to walk to within a couple of feet of his fence and post perch.

Two Hawk Owls were seen during the winter and the usual number of Snowy and Grey Owls.

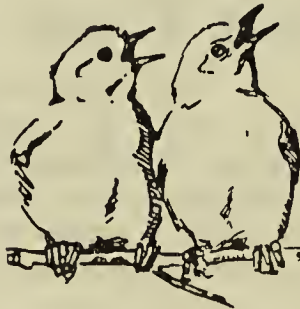
With spring definitely here again—it seems chilly to regard the weather as summerlike—the birds are back again for another season. The Crows and Slate-Colored Juncos returned April 2; one Song Sparrow appeared on the 4th; Tree Sparrows the 6th; Eastern Phoebe on the 28th. A flock of Sand-hill Cranes went north on the 28th also, and from May 2 to 6th, approximately four hundred geese were noted.

There are many bird visitors this year. An Evening Grosbeak visited our bird bath and Red-breasted Grosbeaks are quite common. There are several Baltimore Orioles here, it being the first time they have been seen. I believe they will nest here as they spend a great deal of time in the trees close by.

For several days a large flock of warblers have been feeding on the poplar seeds. Included were the Black and White, Yellow, Black-poll and Blackburnian Warblers.

Bluebirds For Happiness

By E. K. Jones, Raymore



THIS SPRING I made a bird-house out of an old hollow stump and nailed it up on a tree by the house. The next day a pair of Bluebirds came and inspected it. They looked it over for about a week and then began making a nest. Now they are the proud owners and are getting quite tame. They will sit in the hole or on the ledge outside it when anyone passes by.