

quarter of an inch in length. Its chief food is the nectar of flowers, which it extracts with a humming noise like the bee, and suspends its nest from trees, laying two white eggs, the size of a pea.

JAY.—A bird with particoloured plumage, of the crow kind. It is taught to speak.

TIT MOUSE.—A small bird which feeds on the brains of other birds, which it attacks with great ferocity.

NOTES FROM MONTGOMERY, OHIO.—SPARROW HAWK.—During the month of December, 1892, a pair of Sparrow Hawks roosted nightly upon the shutter of a window of my room. It was an upstairs window, close under the eaves and in an angle of the house; hence a sheltered location. About dusk I would often go quietly to my room and look at the pair sitting side by side, with their heads drawn down to the shoulders and the feathers of the body puffed out until they looked quite round.

RED-SHOULDERED HAWK. During the winter of 1891, a chum of mine was walking through an orchard about nine p. m. to return to a neighbor a gun he had borrowed. On walking under an apple tree he heard a disturbance in the branches, and firing almost at random, brought down a badly mangled Red-shouldered Hawk, in mature plumage, which is much less often seen here than the immature. This bird was not more than ten feet from the ground.

CAROLINA WREN AND ENGLISH SPARROW. Perhaps ten years ago I often went to an uncle's to spend a night or day, and there his hay-stacks would be perforated with holes from six to twelve inches deep, and from four to six feet from the ground, probably by English Sparrows. By going about the stacks after dark and putting my hand in the holes I frequently caught English Sparrows, and on one occasion a Carolina Wren. The Sparrows often roost in great numbers in corn cribs and grainaries; and in school-boy days several of us would take a lantern and go to a crib, and climb around, pocketing the birds as fast as one took them from the crannies, or as they were caught on the wing as they flew wildly about. Sometimes the birds would get to fighting in our pockets and when they would bite sharply through our clothes it made things even more lively than before. We would often get as many as twenty-five at one haul and fully as many more escaped; all this from one farm. During the months of August and September Mourning Doves commonly roost on the ground in weedy fields; sometimes in pairs, often in small flocks. In the same season, perhaps at others also, Flickers and

Redheads would perhaps roost in their nesting holes. A rap on the tree after sunset will start them out.

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SOME COMMON BIRDS OF NEW MEXICO.—The following were a few of the commoner birds of south-western New Mexico this last summer :

CURVE-BILLED THRASHER, *Harporhynchus curvirostris*.—This bird was the commonest Thrasher, although the Crissal Thrasher was seen occasionally. It is rather a quiet bird, but has a sweet voice when it wishes to use it, and it is sometimes kept as a cage-bird. It is fond of building in the cactus bushes, and in nearly every bush one of the nests or one of the House Finch may be found. One day, while lying in the hammock on the porch, I saw a young Curve-billed Thrasher fly down to the steps and then up to the railing; from there it hopped along and onto the hammock, when I reached out and caught it. After examining it for a while I let it loose, but it was in no hurry, and the next day it repeated the performance. I did not see it afterward, and I am afraid if it did not get over its curiosity that the cat had a nice meal some day.

CASSIN'S KINGBIRD, *Tyrannus vociferans*.—This was one of the most common birds, replacing the Kingbird which it resembles in habits, and it is commonly called the Kingbird. It has a shrill, rasping cry, which it utters constantly, especially just before alighting. They will attack birds of prey, and I have several times seen them drive away hawks, but they are not as brave in the defense of their nests as is the Kingbird. There was a row of large cottonwood trees in front of our house, and in the evening these birds would gather there in large numbers to roost, and for about an hour there would be constant fighting and shrieking.

ROADRUNNER, *Geococcyx californianus*.—It was quite a common occurrence, when out driving, to see one of these queer looking birds appear in the road a little way in front of us and dart on ahead of the horses, and after running a little way turn off into the bushes, usually going off on the up-hill side. The ones I shot all had stomachs full of insects. While collecting a set of eggs the bird allowed me to approach within a few feet of the tree before hopping off on the opposite side and running away.

HOUSE FINCH, *Carpodacus mexicanus frontalis*.—This bird replaces the English Sparrow (of which there were none where I was). They live principally around the houses, building in holes in the porches and are also very fond of the cactus bushes. They lay four to six bluish eggs, marked on the larger end with black; and raise several broods a year.