

abandoned structures. Bendire says in his "Life Histories of North American Birds" that, "occasionally they make use of an old crow's nest, or one abandoned by some other hawk" (p. 244). This one, as is usually the case, was rather a bulky affair, somewhat loosely put together, and composed of oak twigs, and lined with strips of pine bark, but then there were some other unlooked-for materials sparingly mixed up in it, not used, as a rule, by this hawk, that more closely resembled a crow's work of the year previous. The hawks may have pulled out the old lining, however, and made other additions to suit themselves.

OUR BIRD-BATH.

BY CARRIE FLAGLER SCHANTZ.

In June last year (1906) we laid cement walks, and from the "remainders" Mr. S—— built a bird-bath in the corner of our yard.

He marked out a circle about three feet in diameter. He then excavated to a depth of twenty inches, and filled the space within eight inches of the top with cinders, packing the cinders well; on top of the cinders he put a mixture of gravel and cement and then finished with a mixture of sand and cement, making the center of the bath about six inches below the sod and sloping from the center to the rim of the bath, which was left a little lower than the sod. The bath is located within four feet of a high wire fence in the northeast corner of the yard. It was finished too late for the spring migration, but how the birds enjoyed it through the rest of the summer and until it froze over in the fall! We fill the bath with water from the garden hose and sweep it out with a broom to keep it fresh and clean.

You would be surprised at the number of times it needed cleaning and re-filling on certain warm days. We are in a

suburb of Chicago, and street cars and steam cars are all around us (within from one to six blocks), still we see many varieties of birds every season.

The varieties seen at or near the bath were: Robin, English Sparrow, Bluebird, Gray-checked, Olive-backed, Hermit, and Wilson's Thrushes, Fox, Tree, Chipping, White-throat, White-crowned* and Song Sparrows, American Goldfinch, Pine Finch, Red-winged Blackbird, Catbird, Junco, Yellow Warbler, Flicker, Meadowlark, Towhee, Winter Wren, Blue-headed Vireo, etc.

One of the most interesting sights was late in September. A flock of Pine Siskins surrounded the bath, just as thick around the edge as they could crowd, flying up and down and in and out, affording us who watched from the windows of the house a delightful hour.

The bath has given us many a close glimpse of our enjoyable little visitors and has more than repaid us for the trouble of building it.

The top of the fence affords a good place for the making of a toilet after the bath. Some shrubbery has been planted in the corner and in time will add to its beauty and usefulness, but you may be sure that nothing has been planted that will hide our view of the bath from the house.

The Pine Siskins came twice each day as long as they were in the neighborhood, for a drink.

We planted sunflowers outside the fence and the Goldfinches and Pine Siskins found much to their liking with food and water both so close together.

We have also proved that birds get "real dirty." Many times after several birds had been in the bath the water would need renewing on account of the dirt left by them.

It is also surprising how so many birds located the place to drink, for we noticed not only many new visitors, but many that came regularly day after day.