

THE AMERICAN GOLD FINCH.

When out for a drive or when taking a stroll in the country or in the suburbs, have you ever met with a small bright yellow bird with a little black cap and long pointed black wings interlaced with white. Perched on the dry head of a wild sunflower, picking out the seeds, chirping cheerily his little notes of "ax-e-t," "swret," sounding very much like the call of a tame canary. This little bird is well known to all of us as the will canary, properly named he is the American gold finch. He is not a migratory bird in Nebraska but may be found here all the year round. In winter when Jack Frost has spread his mantle of snow and ice over everything, and the bleak cold northwest winds whistle over the plains and through the bare limbs of the trees, we find him dressed in his thick coat of fine soft feathers of dark dull olive yellow color appearing quite different from what he does at this time of the year when the sun is bright and hot and Mother Nature has a great broad smile for every one of her large family of feathered children. Now we find him dressed in his most beautiful colors of bright lemon yellow trimmed with black, his little dark brown eyes sparkling with merry good nature. These little Americans are very sociable and fond of each others society and if one of them happens to be alone, perched in a tree when a flock of them are flying over he utters his little call and down they come chirping and chattering away just as if they were relating to each other their travels and experiences in other places. The flight of the gold finch reminds one of the long roll and swell of the waves of the sea. At each motion of the wings they rise and dip again continually uttering in their flight the twitter of "tip, tip, tip, tip-e-e-a." These little birds are sweet songsters and I never tire of listening to their soft mellow notes. Their pretty little home is usually found in a small tree, such as the wild plum or willow. The nest is composed of soft material, bits of fine moss and grasses, the eggs are from four to six in number white very lightly tinged with blue and dotted at the large end with reddish brown spots. When disturbed the female leaves the nest flying to a limb where she remains while her mate endeavors to lead the intruder away. This he does by flying away in front of him, lighting, and again flying when too, nearly approached, by these tactics gradually leading him away from his home and when the danger is past they return home again. During the summer their food consists of small seeds. They are fond of the lettuce seed and in some parts of the country are called the lettuce bird. In the fall and winter they feed on wild sunflower seeds and dry elder berries and they are very fond of the Canada thistle seeds and as they dig down in the dry head for the seed they scatter the thistle right and left which makes a pretty sight as it floats off in the breeze. On account of their fondness for these seeds, and as the thistle seed is only ripe when the gold finch has assumed his more somber hues he is often called by persons not well acquainted with him, the thistle bird. These little fellows are only five inches long. The female never assumes the bright colors of her pretty mate but closely resembles him during the winter. The young are colored like the mother bird a dusky olive yellow.

August Eiche.

BRIDAL ROSES.

These blossoms sweet, will wither in an hour;
Not so my reverence—that will ever flower.
—CLINTON SCOLLARD.

DIVINE AWE.

To tremble when I touch her hands,
With awe that no man understands;
To feel soft reverence arise,
When, lover-sweet, I meet her eyes;
To see her beauty grow and shine
When most I feel this awe divine;
Whate'er befall me, this is mine:
And where about the room she moves,
My Spirit follows her, and loves.
—G. E. WOODBERRY IN CENTURY.

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(First publication June 19.)
NOTICE TO CREDITORS.

In the county court of Lancaster county, Nebraska. In the matter of the estate of Moshier T. Green, deceased. To the creditors of said estate:

You are hereby notified that I will sit at the county court room in Lincoln, in said county, on the 15th day of October, 1897, and again on the 15th day of January, 1898, to receive and examine all claims against said estate, with a view to their adjustment and allowance. The time limited for the presentation of claims against said estate is six months from the 15th day of July, A. D. 1897, and the time limited for the payment of debts is one year from the 15th day of July, A. D. 1897.

Notice of this proceeding is ordered published four weeks successively in The Courier, a weekly newspaper published in this state.

Witness my hand and the seal of said county court this 2nd day of June, 1897.
[SEAL] S. T. COCHRAN,
County Judge.
By D. L. LOVE, Clerk.

(First Publication June 26)
NOTICE OF INCORPORATION OF UNION FUEL COMPANY.

To Whom It May Concern—
Notice is hereby given that on the 18th day of June, 1897, the Union Fuel Company adopted and filed articles of incorporation which provide:

1. The name of said corporation shall be the Union Fuel Company.
2. That the principal place of transacting its business shall be in the city of Lincoln, in Lancaster county, State of Nebraska.
3. That the general nature of the business to be transacted shall be that of buying and selling at wholesale and at retail, hard and soft coals, coke, wood, kindling and the like.
4. That the amount of capital stock authorized shall be \$5,000, all of which shall be fully paid up before the commencement of business by said corporation.
5. That said corporation shall commence to do business on the first day of June, 1897, and continue for a period of twenty-five years unless dissolved by law or by a majority vote of all stockholders.
6. That the highest amount of indebtedness or liability of which the corporation shall at any one time shall subject itself shall not exceed two-thirds of the paid in capital stock.
7. That the affairs of said corporation shall be managed by a board of directors not less than three in number and from whose number a president and secretary and treasurer shall be chosen.

Lincoln, Neb., June 17, 1897.
UNION FUEL COMPANY,
By C. P. A. Clough,
its president.
Lewis W. Marshall,
Secretary and Treasurer.



\$3.00 will buy a handsome up to date shoe at our store.

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To Omaha, Chicago, and points in Iowa and Illinois, the UNION PACIFIC in connection with the C. & N. W. Ry. offers the best service and the fastest time. Call or write to me for time cards rates etc.
E. B. SLOSSON,
Gen. Agent.

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