AMONG THE WABLING HERALDS OF SPRING, none is earlier nor more joyous than Robin Redbreast. This fat, merry fellow and his relatives should be arriving in force from the south about the middle of the month, and sometimes is even earlier. Perhaps you are aware of the custom of using the term ‘chirp’ for the call of the robin. In the oldest language known a ‘chirp’ is a noise, and the robin makes a chirping sound, hence the name. The word has come down through the centuries from the Robin Redbreast of the Bible. The list of favorite food items of the robin includes worms, insects, and berries. They are plump and fat in the autumn and winter, bursting with song. Actually, of course, the robin is never absent from Chicago; it is reported here and there even in the bitterest winter, yet he is universally accepted as the official harbinger of spring.

A HANDSOME CHAP WITH RED SPAULETS, the red-winged blackbird is little behind the robin in his arrival in Chicagoland; he usually makes his advent about the middle of the month, and sometimes is even earlier. Perhaps you are aware of the custom of using the term ‘chirp’ for the call of the robin. In the oldest language known a ‘chirp’ is a noise, and the robin makes a chirping sound, hence the name. The word has come down through the centuries from the Robin Redbreast of the Bible. The list of favorite food items of the robin includes worms, insects, and berries. They are plump and fat in the autumn and winter, bursting with song. Actually, of course, the robin is never absent from Chicago; it is reported here and there even in the bitterest winter, yet he is universally accepted as the official harbinger of spring.

SYMBOL OF HAPPINESS, the bluebird is likely to be welcomed to Chicagoland only a day or so later than the robin. Beloved for the association of legend as well as for its soft song, it is one of the most popular spring birds of them all. Though the bluebird is usually blue, it changes color with the weather, as is known from the fact that it makes its nest principally of mosses and leaves the crop alone. It will make its nest almost anywhere, but it is not particular—but is most appreciative of boxes nailed up in the trees.

THE COMMON CROW BLACKBIRD, this smug fellow is called; his other name, “the purple grackle,” is considerably more high-minded. He’s along almost any day now. Aside from the fact that he’s an enemy of the crops, that sent him Peck’s palish bust of Pallas, there isn’t much to say for him. He’s forever in the corn, as portrayed here, and is a ruthless depredator of other birds’ nests. Yet even he is a sturdy destroyer of moths.

A CARPENTER AMONG BIRDS, the flicker, or golden-winged woodpecker, is one of the late arrivals of March. It is likely to appropriate a ready-made hole, or almost any hole in a tree; but sometimes he is heard sounding a tree as if it were his nest in soft wood. Insects form the chief part of its diet, and sums are its favorite delicacy; more than 5,000 ants have been found in the stomach of one of the birds. It is a most useful friend, consequently, one the farmer may trust completely and protect from harm; and it is beautiful as well, in its bright plumage if not in song.

WHEN YOU HEAR ITS CRY, “CHEWINK,” you have heard the chipping, or chipping bunting, summer itself. It will be seen in Chicagoland about the end of the month, if early, or during the earlier part of April. The ground robin, it is sometimes called, because it spends most of its life on the earth. Its flight is typically jerky and heavy when it is frightened from its thicket home.