

BULLETIN
OF THE
NUTTALL ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB.

VOL. VIII.

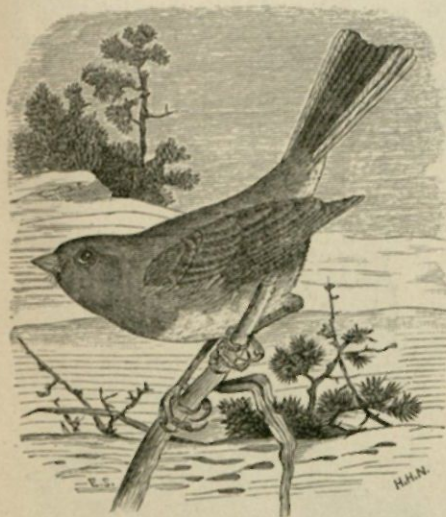
JANUARY, 1883.

No. 1.

THE COMPLIMENTS OF THE SEASON.

BY DR. COUES.

Since we sent out the last number of the Bulletin, a great many of our feathered friends have called upon us to pass the compliments of the season, congratulating us upon the close of the seventh volume of their chronicles, and encouraging us to hope for their distinguished patronage of the eighth fascicle of their *Festi*. On looking over our autograph album we find a number of cards left by our New Year's callers, so prettily engraved that we are sure our readers will be pleased to look over some of the lot.*



One of the earliest was *γ. hiemalis*, who said he had spent the summer very pleasantly with his family on the boundary line between the Canadian and Alleghanian Faunæ which was run in 1871 by Mr. Allen, after some earlier preliminary surveys by Prof. Verrill. He was to pass the winter in Washington, where he desired the BULLETIN to be sent to him, addressed to the care of the Smithsonian Institution, as he

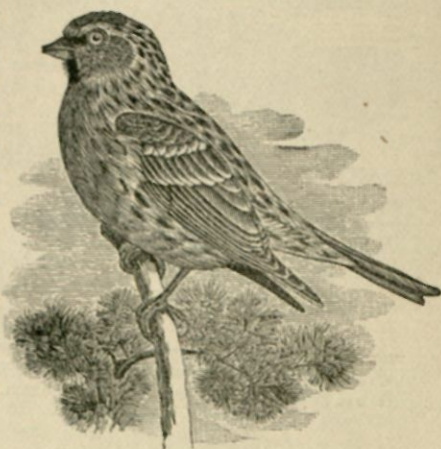
* Ad viv. del. Edwin Sheppard, Philadelphæ; xylogr. H. H. Nichols, Washington-op.: permissu superiorum, Estes et Lauriat, Boston.

expected to call upon Mr. Ridgway and Mr. Henshaw, in the South Tower, and hoped to find them both well.



P. nivalis and his cousin *P. lapponicus* apologized for appearing in unseasonable costume, explaining that they had left in such a hurry, owing to an unexpected change in the weather, that they had really not had time to change their dress. They left pleasant words for Mr. Brewster, in recognition of his papers on the Birds of Arizona, and wished us to thank Mr. Purdie for his kind assistance in finishing the second volume of "New England Bird-Life." They expected to be about all winter and would see us again later.

A rosy little fellow, *A. linaria*, was kind enough to assure us personally that he had forgotten all about the trouble we made in his family in 1860, when we visited him in Labrador, and afterward spoke so shabbily of his appearance. His brother *exilipes*, he added, had settled in Siberia, where at last accounts he was doing as well as could be expected,

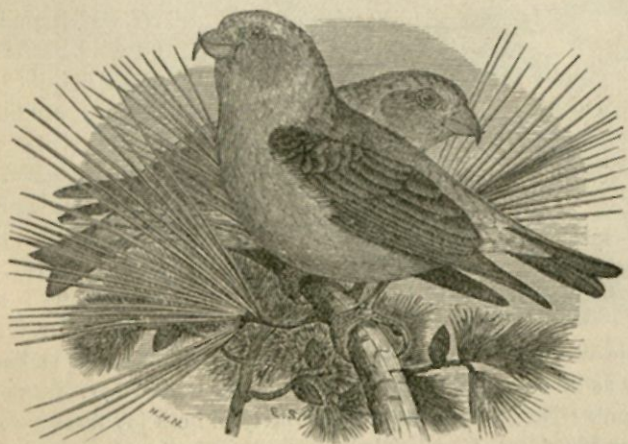


though the family affairs were still somewhat involved,—too many lawyers, since the death of *fuscescens* and *rostratus*, and the extension of the *canescens* estate beyond Greenland. He begged to hand us the card of a western relative, *Leucosticte tephrocotis*,



to be forwarded to Mr. J. M. Wade of Norwich, Connecticut, with best wishes for the success of the "Ornithologist and Oölogist," which he thought much improved in health and spirits of late.

Loxia curvirostra called with his better half, a compliment which we appreciated highly. In spite of the slight impediment in their speech we understood that they wished to call our attention to the increasing number of ornithological articles contained

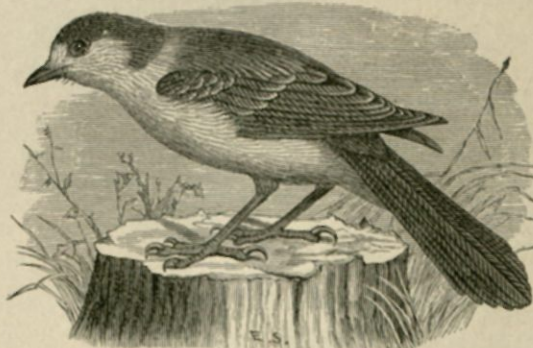


in the Bulletins of the United States National Museum, as showing that Professor Baird's first love still touched his own heart, as it did the hearts of his unnumbered friends and disciples. They expected to go to house-keeping early in March.



P. enucleator spoke of his recent visit to "Forest and Stream," where he was so pleasantly received, and where he found ornithological matters so ably conducted by his friend Mr. George Bird Grinnell.

One of our visitors did not, we regret to say, make himself entirely agreeable. *Perisoreus* was inclined to be cynical, and entirely too inquisitive, besides professing to know too much. He wanted to inquire when the Water Bird volumes of the Baird, Brewer and Ridgway "History of North American Birds" would be out, and whether the second volume of the "Birds of the Colorado Valley" would ever appear. We told him plainly that was



nullum sui negotii. He wondered why Professor Cope did not pay more attention to birds in the "American Naturalist." He wanted to know what had become of Mr. T. G. Gentry; and whether Dr. C. H.

Merriam was likely to do the Birds of the Adirondacks as handsomely as he executed the Mammals; and whether Mr. Frank R. Rathbun's "Birds of Beauty" were likely to be a joy forever; and whether Mr. C. B. Cory's Birds were more or less beautiful than usual. He asked us if we knew (fancy a miserable Whiskey-jack asking editors "if they knew"!) that Studer's Jasper's "Birds of America" was having a good run; that the official reports of Mr. E. W. Nelson and Mr. L. M. Turner were to be illustrated with colored quarto plates by Mr. Ridgway; that the Rev. J. H.

Langille of Buffalo had completed a work upon New York Birds; and that the new "Avifauna Columbiana," to be published with illustrations under the auspices of the Biological Society of Washington, had gone to press. This was cool, considering that Dr. D. W. Prentiss and ourselves were the authors of the work, as we informed him, and accepted his apology. In fact the only graceful things the saucy gossip had to say were respecting the "Nests and Eggs of the Birds of Ohio," which work he hoped would meet with all the success it so well deserved.



Our little visitors seemed in some hurry to be off when our next caller was announced. *Surnia* was polite and dignified, as usual. He had heard, he said, that we were about to publish a new edition of the "Key," which he trusted would be much more handsomely illustrated than the former one, and, as his own contribution to that end, offered us a striking likeness of himself. He re-

marked with grim humor that as the plan of the work included a treatise on the anatomy of birds, he was at our service for any dissections we might wish made. But this being rather a delicate subject, the conversation turned upon late catalogues and nomenclators of North American Birds. *Surnia* complained with some warmth, that, like the old woman in Mother Goose, he hardly knew whether he was himself or somebody else. He begged to suggest the propriety of calling a Congress of American Ornithologists to discuss, vote upon, and decide each case in which

the doctors disagreed, the proceedings to be published in the NUTTALL BULLETIN and the congressmen to bind themselves to abide by the decision of the majority. The plan seemed to him perfectly feasible, and probably the only way to secure the greatly desired uniformity of nomenclature. Not forgetting to inquire politely respecting our "Ornithological Bibliography," the progress of which, he understood, had been arrested by the War Department at Washington, and begging to be remembered to all absent Nuttallians, *Surnia* bowed gravely and withdrew.

Among all our callers there was not one who did not ask particularly after our beloved and respected Editor-in-chief, expressing the warmest sympathy with him in his long illness, and their sincere hopes for his speedy and perfect restoration to health.

NEW BRUNSWICK NOTES.

BY M. CHAMBERLAIN.

Among other interesting ornithological occurrences with which the year 1882 favored observers in the vicinity of St. John was the presence of some six pairs of Pine Grosbeaks (*Pinicola enucleator*) during the entire summer, in a heavy growth of mixed woods, covering the crest of a hill overlooking the Kennebecasis River a few miles from the city.

They were first seen on June 11, when Mr. James W. Banks accidentally shot a female in the very act of arranging some dry grass on a partially formed nest. It was placed in a small spruce some seven feet from the ground and close to the trunk. About a handful of this grass, unmixed with other material, had been laid firmly upon a limb, not woven together, but appearing more like a platform for the main structure to rest upon, than the bottom of a nest. When first seen the male and female were together gathering grass on a hummock close by, and both seemed equally busy. When his mate was killed the male became much excited and exhibited deep distress, continuing for some time within three or four feet of Mr. Banks, as he sat examining the dead bird, and once alighting on a bough close to his head and