

meadows which border the Croton River near its mouth. Some dozen or more specimens have been secured in the last four or five years, and without exception all of them were of the smaller inland variety. They are easily distinguished from the typical maritime species, by their smaller size, shorter bill, and darker plumage. They are evidently migrants, as none of them have been observed in this vicinity in summer. —A. K. FISHER, M. D., *Sing Sing, N. Y.*

Swamp Sparrows and Yellow-rumps—A Question of Evidence.—It seems well to caution collectors against the inference that a bird winters in a given locality because it happens to be found there at some time during the winter. The writers of two interesting notes, printed on page 216 of the present volume of 'The Auk,' make this hasty generalization. It is hardly possible that Swamp Sparrows passed the winter in Massachusetts, in a season so rigorous as was that of 1884-85 after the middle of January; Mr. Chadbourne certainly does not produce sufficient evidence for the conclusion that they did so. It is even less likely that Yellow-rumped Warblers tarried in Maine throughout the same season; no person who kept a record of the weather during that remarkable winter will, I think, draw such an inference from Mr. Goodale's note. —NATHAN CLIFFORD BROWN, *Portland, Me.*

The Song of *Cardinalis virginianus*.—Mr. Bicknell's note on the song of the Cardinal Grosbeak reminds me that it sings at a much *earlier* date in Kansas. It is a permanent resident, abundant at all seasons. Its song may be heard from February 1 to August. Should the days be bright and warm, its song begins even in January. If, during February, the weather should become extremely cold, its song ceases for a time. Like the Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottus*), it sings at night. I have heard its song in the 'small hours' of the night, during February, March, and April. —D. E. LANTZ, *Manhattan, Kans.*

The Black-throated Bunting, Yellow-breasted Chat, and Connecticut Warbler in Ontario.—On June 1, 1884, Mr. Wm. L. Bailey, collecting with Mr. A. P. Saunders and the writer at Point Pelee, found several Black-throated Buntings in a meadow about two miles from the end of the Point. Knowing of no previous record in Canada, we were all much interested; and subsequently, in extending our search, we found one or more pairs in almost every field. All our efforts to discover a nest seemed doomed to fail; and even when we spent much time and care in watching the birds, and marking down the place where the supposed nest was, we could never succeed. The males spent much time in singing their monotonous ditty from tree-tops and fence-posts, and even during the heat of the day our presence was sufficient to start them going. This appeared to act as a partial alarm to the female, and if we approached, the male would fly over her and give an alarm-note, precisely after the manner of the Bobolink under similar circumstances.