

killed was the exact counterpart of the young of the Blue-winged Yellow Warbler, with its yellow breast and white wing-bars.

In all probability the father of this interesting family was a specimen of *Helminthophila pinus*.—A. K. FISHER, M. D., *Sing Sing, New York*.

**The Loggerhead Shrike in New Hampshire.**—On the morning of the 16th of April of this year an unfamiliar bird-note — as of a Robin with a cleft tongue — attracted my attention to a clump of balsams (*Abies balsamea*) in the yard of our nearest neighbor. Here, after a few moments of hide and seek, I discovered the birds to be a pair of these Shrikes (*Lanius ludovicianus*) although at first I quite naturally supposed them to be *Lanius borealis*, with whose acquaintance I have been little favored. For the next ten days the birds were seen continually as they boldly flew about the houses gathering materials for their nest. This they built close to the trunk of one of the balsams, at a distance of about 20 feet from the ground and scarcely more than that from the upper windows of the house. On the 27th one egg was found, and, to anticipate any possible unnatural actions on the part of the birds, was taken. The female, however, soon resumed her oviparous duties so that on May 4 we secured five more eggs. But meanwhile doubts had arisen as to the species; accordingly the birds were shot and have since been identified by the editor of this Journal as *Lanius ludovicianus*.

The nest, which is large for the size of the birds, is composed outwardly of twigs rather loosely joined together by wads of worsted and twine; the inner portion, however, is quite compact, being composed of dried grasses and roots finely interwoven with feathers and soft bits of worsted. The depth of the nest is two inches; its diameter is three inches.

The eggs are of a grayish-white ground-color, entirely covered with small blotches of a sandy-brown of several shades, darkest at the large end. The eggs measure (in inches) 1.01 × .70; .94 × .74; .98 × .70; .96 × .70; .96 × .70; .98 × .66.

While under my observation the Shrikes did not evince a particularly savage or quarrelsome disposition; when the nest was building they enjoyed driving away the Robins, whose customary abode they had pre-empted, yet neither in the trees near at hand, nor in an apple tree about 300 yards distant which the male made his look-out, did we see any evidences of impaled victims. They frequently alighted in the grass, apparently in search of grasshoppers and crickets. Their vocal range was broad; but to our ears disclosed a painful lack of culture; save for an occasional liquid, far-away, tone, like a bit of blue sky seen through angry clouds, — their notes were very harsh and discordant. In concluding I will say that another season will doubtless add further evidence, and sufficient, for the complete establishment of the fact that *L. ludovicianus* is a regular resident in this locality. —EDWIN BRANT FROST, *Hanover, N. H.*

**Breeding of *Loxia americana* in the District of Columbia.** — In Vol. I of 'The Auk,' p. 292. Mr. Ridgway cites the occurrence of *Loxia americana*

in the vicinity of Washington in May, 1884, and, judging from the worn condition of the plumage of one of the specimens shot—a female—he very naturally surmises that this species, hitherto considered an extremely rare and irregular winter visitant, breeds in this section. This season I was so fortunate as to substantiate this view in a most satisfactory manner. On the 17th of May an adult male and a young bird in the striped feather, barely able to fly, were seen by me in a pine sapling, a short distance beyond the city limits. Attracted to the spot by the call of the parent, uttered for the encouragement of the young, I approached within a few feet, and thoroughly identified the birds. — HUGH M. SMITH, *National Museum, Washington, D. C.*

**Non-appearance of Juncos at Montreal.**—I am informed by Mr. Ernest D. Wintle that he did not see a Junco in the vicinity of Montreal during the spring migrations of the present year, a most unusual occurrence, as the birds are generally very abundant at that season, although but few of them remain there to breed. Mr. Wintle also writes to me that Mr. W. W. Dunlop and Mr. Paul Kuetzing, also of Montreal, had remarked the entire absence of this species. Mr. Wintle desires to know if anything similar has been observed by readers of 'The Auk.'—MONTAGUE CHAMBERLAIN, *St. John, N. B.*

**Familiar Chipping Sparrows.**—Miss Katie Hine, of Vienna, Virginia, has for several years past had Chipping Sparrows, *Spizella socialis*, visit her home each summer. The first year it was noticed that one of the pair had the claw missing from the middle toe. This bird came with its mate for three successive years and then ceased its visits. The second year there came also with them another pair, one of which, at least, was suspected to be the young of the first year. Now there are two pairs of adults so familiar that I observed them fly to her feet and clamor for crumbs of bread while we were at the dinner table. In the afternoon they frequently alighted near her and even fed from her hand. They know the window of her bedroom, and each morning they assail the panes of glass, making quite a noise to arouse her for their accustomed food.—L. M. TURNER, *Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C.*

**Swamp Sparrows and Yellow Rumps.**—As the "*Wintering of the Swamp Sparrow in Eastern Massachusetts*" has been made "a question of evidence," it may be well to give that evidence somewhat more in detail than was before thought necessary, and also to state the reasons for concluding that the birds did pass the winter in Cambridge.

On December 29, 1884, four Swamp Sparrows were seen by Mr. F. H. Hitchcock in a small tangle of weeds and alders on the edge of a stream which runs through the Fresh Pond marshes, but they were so shy and hard to approach that only one of them was shot; this was stuffed by Mr. C. J. Maynard of Boston, who told me that he had never before seen one from Massachusetts in winter. While taking a short walk on the after-