

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-

noon of January 31, 1885, I met Mr. Hitchcock, and together we went to the place where he saw the Sparrows on December 29, and also to the one in which they were found by Mr. Lamb in January, 1883.\* Quite near the latter locality were the fresh and only partly frozen remains of a Sparrow (an undoubted *Melospiza palustris*, as I afterward made sure by comparison) which had evidently been killed by a Shrike.

From the above it would appear almost certain that the birds were present during the entire month of January, and it is very probable that they might have escaped my notice when I looked for them later. If the original flock consisted of only four there could not have been more than two left for me to find, and in the tangled underbrush, which, in one swampy place at least, extends over several acres, they might easily have eluded me.

I have always considered that any species found here in January was an undoubted winter resident, and its presence at any date during that month sufficient proof of this. Mr. William Brewster tells me that he considers the autumnal migration ended here by December 25, and January, the one winter month when all birds (except such erratic species as Crossbills, Pine Grosbeaks, etc.) are settled for a brief period. If January is not accepted as the test month it will be almost impossible to determine our rarer winter residents, for early in February some of our most hardy spring birds often begin to arrive.

It seems to me it is unsafe to say that "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," for there are numerous instances recorded of the wintering of certain birds far north of their usual habitat at that season, even during exceptionally cold winters.† The warm and open character of the winter of 1884-'85 previous to January 18 might also have caused the birds to establish themselves in a locality which they would have been unwilling or unable to leave later.

I think it is almost equally certain that the Yellow-rumped Warblers were also wintering at Pine Point, Maine, as they do regularly at Milton, Mass. (only about ninety miles south), where I have found them every winter for a number of years.—ARTHUR P. CHADBOURNE. *Cambridge, Mass.*

**Note on the capture of *Coturniculus lecontei* and *Dendroeca kirtlandi* within the city limits of St. Louis, Mo.**—Leconte's Sparrow, male, was taken April 1, 1885, on dry ground in a prairie overgrown with coral-berry bushes (*Symphoricarpos*). The earliness of the date seems to be remarkable. Another specimen, in the collection of Mr. Hurter, was taken in

\* Journ. Boston Zool. Soc., 11 (1883), p. 32.

† I find that the following southern species have been recorded from Eastern Massachusetts during the very cold winter of 1882-'83:—Flock of six *Sialia sialis* (Job, Bulletin Nuttall Club, VIII, 1883, p. 149); two *Molothrus ater* (Speiman, *ibid.*, p. 121); and a *Dendroeca pinus* (Brewster, *ibid.*, p. 120). See also Auk, I, 1884, pp. 294, 295, and Bulletin Nuttall Club, IV, 1879, p. 118.