

thologists. In addition to the Roadrunner it is probable that many of the species now credited to the Phil. Mag. 1827, were first described here.

Swainson's 'Appendix' ought to be as worthy of recognition as A. A. H. Lichtenstein's 'Catalogus Rerum' (1793), or Leach's 'Systematic Catalogue' (1816), or H. Lichtenstein's 'Preis-Verzeichniss' (1830), and should a copy come to light it is to be hoped that, like the works just mentioned, it may be reprinted for the benefit of ornithologists. — CHARLES W. RICHMOND, *Washington, D. C.*

The Red-headed and Other Woodpeckers in Michigan in Winter. — On reading the note in 'The Auk' for January, 1900, page 67, entitled 'The Red-headed Woodpecker near Chicago, Ill.,' by G. S. Mead, of San Francisco, Cal., I wish to say that the presence of the Red-headed Woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*) during the winter months in Michigan does not depend upon the temperature, but entirely upon the food supply, viz.: the crop of acorns and beechnuts which precedes the winter. If these nuts are plenty, the Red-headed Woodpecker will always be found during the winter months, but in no great abundance. If there are no acorns or beechnuts, this bird will be entirely absent in our Michigan forests. The Red-headed Woodpecker is therefore one of those peculiar birds whose migrations depend upon circumstances, viz.: the abundance of proper food; and this will be found characteristic of some of the rest of the family (Picidæ), namely, the Red-bellied (*Melanerpes carolinus*) and the Golden-winged Woodpecker (*Colaptes auratus*), which are sometimes found with us during the whole year, and sometimes they are absent during the winter months. The only bird of this family which I have *not* observed during the winter months is the Yellow-bellied Woodpecker (*Sphyrapicus varius*), which subsists almost entirely upon the sap and inner bark of trees, preferably the hard maples and the Austrian and Scotch Pines, which are usually found planted in lawns and parks. The Yellow-bellied Woodpecker makes his appearance in Michigan about the first of April when the sap is in full flow, and you will always find him on the park or lawn doing great damage among the Austrian and Scotch pines, in some cases entirely girdling and ruining the trees. This is the only member of this family that should *not* be protected by law. — JAMES B. PURDY, *Plymouth, Wayne Co., Michigan.*

The Flicker Wintering in Montreal. — On January 14, 1900, while walking with a friend along the woods at the foot of Mount Royal, I was surprised to see a Golden-winged Woodpecker (*Colaptes auratus*) fly from a tree within a few feet of us; it alighted on a sumac near by and began to feed on the seeds. We had a good view of it for a short time, until it flew into some low bushes and disappeared.

We saw one near the top of Mount Royal on November 25, 1899, which was, perhaps, the same bird, this being an unusually late date for its occurrence. The winter here has been milder than usual, but I have

never heard before, even in mild seasons, of *C. auratus* wintering so far north. — J. B. WILLIAMS, *Montreal, Can.*

Chuck-will's-widow in Kansas. — Prof. D. E. Lantz kindly informs me that the specimen of the Chuck-will's-widow (*Antrostomus carolinensis*) taken at Wichita, Kan., as recorded by me in a footnote to p. 187 of 'The Auk' for April, 1889, is really the specimen recorded by him on the same page, which was sent to Prof. Dyche for confirmation of the identification, and by the latter forwarded to me. — J. A. ALLEN, *Am. Mus. Nat. History, New York City.*

Otocoris alpestris praticola at Ipswich, Mass. — On October 26, 1899, at Ipswich, Mass., with Dr. Walter Faxon and Mr. G. M. Allen, I took a male Prairie Horned Lark out of a flock of four birds (two others were also seen later), the other three appearing to be of the same race. The specimen taken seems of especial interest, as its measurements and paleness make it approach very nearly to *arenicola*, — the specimen being almost intermediate as it is. Mr. Harry C. Oberholser and Mr. William Brewster, and all who have examined the bird, are of the opinion, however, that it is perhaps nearest *praticola*, and must be called such. Geographically of course, the bird is *praticola*, for if *arenicola* it is a straggler far out of its usual range. — REGINALD HEBER HOWE, JR., *Longwood, Mass.*

The Red Crossbill Unusually Common at Portland, Maine, in Summer. — During the early summer of 1899, Red Crossbills (*Loxia curvirostra minor*) were numerous about the west end of Portland, Maine, — a section of the city in which there is still a good deal of land devoted to gardens and lawns, and which contains a hill-side park with a large grove of pines. I returned to Portland from the south on June 2. The birds were then everywhere in evidence about my neighborhood, but mainly because of their vociferousness. They were quite elusive, and I found it difficult to estimate their numbers except from the noise they made. It was not until July 1 that I saw a large number together. On that morning, I counted twenty-eight in one open flock which flew slowly over me as I stood in the middle of a wide lawn. On the afternoon of that same day I left Portland for the summer. — NATHAN CLIFFORD BROWN, *Portland, Me.*

White-winged Crossbills in Rhode Island. — It may be of interest to Rhode Island ornithologists to record the taking of White-winged Crossbills (*Loxia leucoptera*) at Neutaconkanut Hill, Johnston, R. I., Jan. 14 and 30, and at Pawtuxet on the 1st, 2d and 24th of February. — EDWARD H. ARMSTRONG, *Providence, R. I.*

White-winged Crossbills and Brünnich's Murres in Central New Hamp-