

preserved three, which present the following measurements: 1.80×1.35 , 1.71×1.36 , 1.74×1.36 . — R. W. WILLIAMS, JR., *Tallahassee, Florida*.

Nyctea nyctea on Long Island, New York. — Snowy Owls have visited Long Island in considerable numbers during the past winter. I have heard of their being either seen or killed at several different places and four fresh birds have been sent to me from Montauk Point, obtained on the following dates: December 31, 1901, January 6, 1902, January 21, 1902, and February 6, 1902. It is several years since these northern visitors have been so abundant. — JONATHAN DWIGHT, JR., M. D., *New York City*.

Belted Kingfisher in the Island of Hawaii. — Early in November of 1901 Mr. Harry Patten of Hakelau informed me that a pair of Belted Kingfishers (*Ceryle alcyon*) had appeared in Hakelau Gulch, some fifteen miles north of Hilo. On the 27th of the month, Mr. W. K. Andrews of Honoumou visited the locality, and, finding only the female, secured her, kindly presenting the specimen to the writer. The other bird in the meantime had disappeared, having probably been killed.

As the second bird is reported to have been somewhat differently colored it was probably the male. It is hardly likely that the pair would ever have found their way back to the mainland and, had a kinder fate directed them to a more solitary spot, they might have survived and reared young to populate the islands. Most of the island streams contain small fish and shrimps, and there would seem to be no reason why the kingfisher should not thrive here, although its field would be limited.

So far as the writer is aware this is the first occurrence in the group of this or, indeed, of any kingfisher. Evidently the pair drifted down here from the mainland coast during the fall migration, and their occurrence here, like that of so many other American species, is purely accidental. Yet it is through just such accidents that the islands have received, from several sources, their avian inhabitants. — H. W. HENSHAW, *Hilo, Hawaii*.

A Winter Record for the Flicker (*Colaptes auratus luteus*) in Berkshire County. — In 'The Birds of Berkshire County,' by Dr. W. Faxon and Mr. R. Hoffmann, the latest autumn date for this species is given as October 24, and the earliest spring record as April 10. We observed at Williamstown on December 12, 1900, a single bird which may have been wintering, and on April 6, 1901, the first Flicker arrived. — FRANCIS G. AND MAURICE C. BLAKE, *Brookline, Mass.*

The Winter Fringillidæ of New Brunswick. — The list of birds given below includes the members of the Finch and Sparrow family which occur in New Brunswick during the months of December, January, and February. During these three months migration is as nearly at a standstill as at any time during the year. This family is represented by more species than

any other family of birds, eleven species occurring here during the winter months, in greater or lesser numbers, being sometimes plentiful and even abundant and in other years rare.

The year 1901 has brought several surprises, the regular winter birds having been rather scarce, while two species which do not ordinarily occur here till late in March, and another not till mid May, have been more plentiful than any of the regular winter birds, except probably the Black-capped Chickadee and Red-breasted Nuthatch.

Pinicola enucleator. PINE GROSBEEK. — This is a rare summer resident as far south as Fredericton, N. B. They come south in autumn in flocks varying in number from three or four to fifty. By people little acquainted with birds they are often mistaken for the Robin. In fact, they have been called 'Winter Robins' by some ornithologists.

Their habit of living in summer in coniferous forests, generally far from the haunts of man, causes them to have little fear of him when they come south, and one may approach quite closely to examine them. When they are feeding one may often get quite up to the tree in which they are resting.

Their food in winter consists of almost any of the persistent fruits. A favorite food is the seeds of the ground ash, which they pick from the trees and even from the ground where they have been blown by heavy winds. This winged fruit they dissect, taking only the meat. Small apples are also eaten. At times the pulp is cast away and only the seeds eaten, and again their crops have been found to contain the pulp.

They also feed upon the fruit of the sumach. Their never failing diet is the tips of fir twigs, the buds which produce the next season's growth. These are bitten off, and to reach them the birds at times hang nearly up side down, as the lithe limbs bend with the weight of the birds. When this food has been eaten the bill is covered with balsam. Elm buds also are eaten after they begin to swell in spring.

The flight of the Pine Grosbeak is slightly undulating, and when on the wing they often give forth a soft loud whistle by imitating which they may be induced to alight nearby.

Some ornithologists claim that this species nests far north, and so early in spring that the eggs are laid before the snow has gone. This may be true, but it is also true that they breed in New Brunswick in the month of July.

Carpodacus purpureus. PURPLE FINCH. — This species is in appearance a small edition of the Pine Grosbeak. The males very much resemble each other in color, but the females and young of the Purple Finch lack the yellowish breast and rump of the Pine Grosbeak. The earliest record the writer has for the arrival of this species from the south is February 5, 1901, which is fully seven weeks earlier than is usual for the spring migrants to arrive. Even at this early date they were singing, but the song lacked the energy that is given it during the nuptial season. The song of the young male is not so rich as that of the adult, consisting of a

few short notes in place of the long flowing song of the full plumaged adult male.

Their food, after arriving in spring, is buds of various trees, the favorite being the poplar and the balsamy buds of the fir; later insects are added to the bill of fare. Although arriving early from the south the nesting season is deferred till after the middle of June.

Passer domesticus. ENGLISH SPARROW.—This species lives in winter in towns and villages, the families which are raised throughout the country in summer flocking to their winter quarters during October.

Loxia leucoptera. WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL.—This species may be termed a rare winter visitor in the vicinity of Fredericton, yet they are known to live in summer in the northern highlands of this province. They feed upon the seeds of spruce, black alder and birch. The song, which is much like the song of the Purple Finch, is poured forth while the bird is on the wing, and also while the bird is at rest. During the winter of 1899-1900 this species was common here.

Acanthis hornemannii exilipes. HOARY REDPOLL.—This species has been taken at Peticodiac, in the eastern corner of New Brunswick, and is considered very rare.

Acanthis linaria. REDPOLL.—Both sexes of the Redpoll are much alike, the males being distinguished by the pink tinge on the feathers of the breast. They are very lively little birds, and seem to be cheerful in sunshine or storm. They feed on weed seeds as long as any weeds remain above the snow. The seeds of various trees are also eaten, such as those of the black alder and yellow birch. The writer has had the experience of watching Redpolls feed on seeds put out for them. They would feed for several hours daily, and would take fifty seeds per minute. So erratic are these birds in their choice of a winter home, that one winter they may be abundant with us and not be seen again for years, or they may appear in autumn, pass on, and not be here again till the next winter.

Spinus tristis. AMERICAN GOLDFINCH.—During the winter of 1900-01 Goldfinches were observed here February 15, a very unusual occurrence, the general time of arrival being in the month of May.

Spinus pinus. PINE FINCH.—This species, like the Redpolls, is so erratic in movements, that one can never know whether or not it will occur during the winter season, yet it is during the winter that we are most sure of its presence. They feed largely upon the fruit of the yellow birch and cedar.

Plectrophenax nivalis. SNOW BUNTING.—This is the most easily recognized of any of our Fringillidæ of either summer or winter. Their food consists of seeds of weeds and grasses, of which they get an abundant supply on haystacks. They are most abundant along river valleys. It has been alleged by some writers that Snow Buntings never perch on trees, but it is not uncommon to see them resting on trees when not feeding.

Spizella monticola. TREE SPARROW.—This is our only winter sparrow,

that does not congregate in flocks while with us, they being seldom seen in companies of more than two or three. They are not common during winter and are only found at that season along river valley roads that are fringed with coniferous bushes.

Junco hyemalis. SLATE-COLORED JUNCO.—This season (1901) is the only time the writer has observed this species here so late in the year, one being observed December 4, during a heavy snowstorm. It seemed as happy as if it had just arrived from the south in April.—W. H. MOORE, *Frederickton, N. B.*

The Occurrence of the Lapland Longspur (*Calcarius lapponicus*) in Mid-winter in Massachusetts.—On January 12, 1902, the writer, with Mr. H. M. Spelman and Mr. R. S. Eustis, found between forty and fifty of these birds at Ipswich. Four or five were on a hillside about half a mile from the beach, and the remainder among the sand-dunes by the sea. The day was stormy and cold, the fine snow blowing and drifting so that the beach grass on which they were feeding was more or less covered. Perhaps on this account the birds were tamer than usual and allowed a close approach. The Longspurs were alone, and also associated with Horned Larks and Snow Buntings. Three Ipswich Sparrows were seen with them.

It is not uncommon to find the Longspurs in the early part of December in Ipswich. Thus I have records for December 10, 1898, and December 8, 1901.—CHARLES W. TOWNSEND, *Boston, Mass.*

The Lapland Longspur Wintering in Massachusetts.—In our 'Birds of Massachusetts' (1901), Mr. Reginald Heber Howe, Junior, and the undersigned, gave, as the only instance known to us of the wintering of the Lapland Longspur in the State, the record of one from Ipswich, Jan. 6, 1877. This specimen with above date on the label, is preserved in the mounted collection of the Boston Society of Natural History. By a mere chance the fact came out that this specimen, which was presented by Messers. E. A. & O. Bangs, was probably from the same lot of birds, bought at the Boston Market, from which came the McCown's Longspur, credited by Mr. C. J. Maynard to Massachusetts. It appears that the market-man of whom the specimens were obtained, when asked if they came from Ipswich, replied, as he naturally would, in the affirmative, and it seems reasonable to believe that these two birds were in reality from the West, and that there are no actual winter records for the State. Lately, however, Mr. Howe, in company with Mr. Louis Agassiz Shaw, while at Ipswich on the 18th of January, 1902, took one, and saw at least five others, so that we are now able to give the species unquestioned standing as of at least occasional occurrence in Massachusetts in winter.

While on three trips to Ipswich during the autumn of 1901 (Oct. 22, Nov. 9 and 28) Mr. Howe found Longspurs in unusual abundance, and apparently, as this season has been comparatively mild, a proportion have