

Rare Winter Visitants in the Vicinity of Plainfield, New Jersey.—

The past winter has been the most interesting, ornithologically, in the writer's local field experience of more than twenty years. The following five rare winter visitants are the most noteworthy species observed.

EVENING GROSBEEK (*Hesperiphona vespertina vespertina*). A pair of Evening Grosbeaks were observed in a grove of cedars on December 17, 1916, and the female was still present on December 25. This cedar grove is in the Washington Valley near Scotch Plains, and is the spot in which Evening Grosbeaks were found in January and February, 1911, my only other record of this species (see Bird-Lore, Vol. XIII, 1911, p. 95). It may be well to record that a male was collected on February 12, and a female on February 19, 1911. As on former occasions the Grosbeaks were feeding on the drupes of the Flowering Dogwood, particularly on the kernel, but probably to some extent on the pulp also.

PINE GROSBEEK (*Pinicola enucleator leucura*). In the same cedar grove a female Pine Grosbeak was seen on December 31, 1916, and on January 28, 1917, two females were present. On February 11 only a single female could be found. On all three occasions they were eating the Red Cedar berries in company with Purple Finches. My only previous records of this species were made in the winter of 1903-4. A number of specimens were collected on January 4, 1904.

RED CROSSBILL (*Loxia curvirostra minor*). No White-winged Crossbills have been observed during the winter to date of writing (February 16) and Red Crossbills have been noted but twice, a single bird on December 10, and another on December 24, 1916. Both were flying over, the characteristic "kip kip" serving to identify them. It is probable that there would have been more Crossbills in this region but for the local scarcity of spruce and pine cones this season.

REDPOLL (*Acanthis linaria linaria*). Redpolls have been more abundant than ever before in my experience. They were observed on numerous occasions from late November to February 11. The largest number was recorded on December 25 when about 120 were counted. The seeds of the White Birch constitute their chief food. An adult male collected on January 1 agrees with *A. l. linaria* in size, but is decidedly less brown above than typical specimens of that form. It is now in the collection of Dr. Jonathan Dwight.

LABRADOR CHICKADEE (*Penthestes hudsonicus nigricans* Townsend). On December 17, 1916, a couple of Labrador Brown-cap Chickadees were discovered in the same cedar grove, in which the Pine and Evening Grosbeaks were found. One was seen in the same spot on December 25, and on the 31st both birds were again met with. On the latter date one bird, a female, was collected. This specimen has been identified by Dr. Charles W. Townsend as belonging to his recently described Labrador race. Later dates for the remaining individual are January 14 and 28. On January 7, a single bird of this species was seen on the north side of the Third Watchung Mountain between Plainfield and Stirling. Judging by its dark cap it also

was *P. h. nigricans*. On February 4 in company with Mr. C. H. Rogers, another individual was met on the First Mountain between Westfield and Summit.

In every case the Labrador Chickadee was associated with larger numbers of the Black-cap Chickadee. The bird seen on January 7 was accompanied by three Tufted Titmice also. No form of *Penthestes hudsonicus* has ever before been recorded from New Jersey.—W. DEW. MILLER, Plainfield, N. J.

Notes from Madison, Wisconsin.—RED-THROATED LOON (*Gavia stellata*). On June 7, 1916, a loon was seen on Lake Mendota that at once attracted attention by its small size. The bird was not more than one hundred yards from shore and by a cautious approach I was able to study it carefully. Although in winter plumage, the character of the bill left no doubt but that it was of this species.

RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER (*Centurus carolinus*). A male was seen at frequent intervals in the immediate vicinity of my home from January 3 to May 20, 1916. Possibly the same bird was again noted from October 4 to October 8. Not noted during the summer months.

WESTERN MEADOWLARK (*Sturnella neglecta*). On April 13, 1916, a Western Meadowlark alighted on a fence a short distance away and sang for several minutes. The writer at one time spent several months in western Texas and adjoining regions where the thoroughly characteristic song of this species could be heard almost daily. The following quotation with the exception of (this) is taken verbatim from Kumlein and Hollister — 'Birds of Wisconsin.' "It is found regularly in Rock, Jefferson and Dane (this) counties, but only (?) in very late fall, November and even December, but not having as yet been noted in spring." It is probable that most observers will consider it uncommon at any season.

HARRIS'S SPARROW (*Zonotrichia querula*). One seen on May 11, 1916. — A. W. SHORGER, Madison, Wisc.

Notes from North Carolina.—The writers spent from December 30, 1916, to January 1, 1917, on and around Monkey Island, Currituck Sound, North Carolina, studying the winter bird-life of the region. Three observations are worthy of record.

REDPOLL (*Acanthis linaria* subsp.). Two observed on December 31, 1916, feeding on the beach opposite Monkey Island, in company with Ipswich and Savannah Sparrows. They were so tame as to permit an approach within ten feet. One was heard in the same place the next day. Mr. T. Gilbert Pearson informs us this is the second record for the State. As we had no means of collecting a specimen, it is impossible to state definitely to which subspecies the birds belonged. They were noticeably smaller than the Sparrows with which they were associated, and the presumptive evidence is of course strongly in favor of their being straight *linaria*.