

BIRD NOTES.

- An influx of Evening Grosbeaks occurred during the month of March, large flocks appearing within the city limits and in less settled districts nearby. The birds were so conspicuous and popular that many interesting items appeared in the daily press. A number of ignorant people either trapped or shot these birds, but the timely intervention of the proper authorities prevented what might have been a wholesale slaughter of hundreds of this beautiful species. The Grosbeaks were subsisting on a diet of mountain-ash berries. Several trees, under personal observation, were stripped bare of berries in two days. The birds have apparently gone northward again, as none have been seen since March 26th. On March 28th, on the mountain side, I noticed a dead male, which was in perfect condition and had not been shot. Perhaps this bird died of starvation, as others have been lately picked up and their crops have been empty.

The Pine Grosbeaks have been conspicuous by their absence, only one male and two females being seen during the entire winter. These were also feeding on mountain-ash berries, and would occasionally drop into a pool of water to take a bath. The birds were quite tame, allowing anybody to approach within a few feet of them.

The spring migration has set in in earnest and quite suddenly. A week ago hard winter conditions were prevailing, but now the weather is warm and summerlike. The Prairie Horned Larks were observed on March 5th. Although crows have been reported from certain farming districts a few miles outside of Montreal during the winter, the first spring arrivals in this locality appeared on March 12th, becoming more abundant each day. On March 26th a flock of Red-winged Blackbirds was noted, and one Bluebird put in an appearance. On March 28th a Song Sparrow was heard, and the day following the birds were common, about fifteen being heard singing in an orchard where there was plenty of brush and cover.

March 30th was a fine, warm spring day. At 4 p.m. I visited an area of low ground some 400 yards square, and flanked on one side by a small stream and a thin growth of alder and willow bushes. This locality was covered by snow and water, and I was immediately attracted by a flock of about 50 Robins, which were probably going further north, and six Bluebirds running over its surface. The Bluebirds would fly into the bushes and quietly drop to the snow again, with an occasional soft call note. The birds were evidently feeding on spiders