

Quite a number of the birds included in this list are irrelevant to the scope of this article, but are included for completeness' sake, to show about when they may be looked for and what birds come this way at all. Such birds that do not show anything in this connection are e. g. the redpoll, pine siskin, brown-breasted nuthatch, crow, blue jay, etc., because they may be considered permanent residents, or because they do not follow any apparent rules in their coming and going, their presence or absence. Other such erratic birds are the pine grosbeak, Canada jay, evening grosbeak, arctic-three-toed woodpecker, etc., which are here omitted. Others, such as the ducks, rails, herons, hawks are not quoted to prove much in this connection, because they are not easily observed or are rare, so that they may be for days or even weeks in their chosen haunts, before the ornithologist, who can not always go to such difficult places, may see them.

The effect that we would expect the severe outgoing of the winter and incoming of the spring to have upon the migration of birds, is that the birds would be retarded to a greater or less extent. And this is what the following list shows. The first commonly observed migrant in our parts is the prairie horned lark. That comes at the end of February. Now, because last winter up to that time was unusually mild, the coming of this little bird was earlier than usual, Feb 20, or at least no later. Then came the snowy and cold March, the effect of which can be seen by the lateness of arrival of such birds as the purple finch, robin, bronzed grackle, song sparrows, red-winged black bird, bluebird, and junco, which here are the first of the real and regular migrants. These were this year kept back for a time of from several days to two weeks. Then came warm, May-like weather in April, which made the date of arrival of the species falling into this month again normal, or may have even accelerated it with some, whereas the somewhat raw weather of the first half of May again had the contrary effect. It may be said, that a single, dejected-looking robin was this year seen as early as March 9th in a garden along the Rideau, and again on the 17th, but the real robin migration did not begin before the date given.

I must also state that much material in the line of dates has been furnished to me by other members of the Ornithological sec