

river, where they find abundant food in the refuse deposited there.

*Song sparrow*.—This bird seldom appears before the 27th instant, but one was heard and afterwards seen by three different people on 18th instant, in a garden between Wilbrod and Theodore streets. In 1894 this bird was seen on March 11th, in 1895 on April 3rd, in 1896 on April 10th. Its advent depends on the weather south, and this year a warm south wind had been blowing two days and nights prior to its appearance.

*Robins*.—The first reliable appearance of this bird was on March 22nd, on a telegraph wire on Theodore street where it was in full song. It was reported as seen on the Glebe property, Mutchmor street, a few days prior to this, but it may have been a shrike which was mistaken for it, as my informant said it was chasing sparrows.

*Thunder*.—On 20th instant the first thunder shower occurred at 3 p.m., two vivid flashes of lightning and heavy peals of thunder being noticed, with a heavy down-pour like a summer shower.

*Earthquake*.—A heavy earthquake shock was experienced at 6 h. 2 m. p.m., felt east as far as Father Point and west in the Kingston district. Montreal seems to have felt the heaviest shock.

*Grossbeak*.—An unusually large number of these birds, known in England as the Hawfinch, have visited Ottawa during February and March, the attraction apparently being the abundant berries of the mountain ash, as that tree has been largely planted in grounds surrounding public buildings, and the trees are gaining maturity, the crop of berries is larger than in former years. This may account for the preponderance in the number of these birds over years ago.

*Redpoll*.—Quite a number of these birds have been seen in and around Ottawa during the winter. Their song is suggestive of spring, and unless the bird is seen it might easily be mistaken for one of our spring emigrants.

*Purple finch*.—I am not certain if a flock of birds seen in the Park one day early in March consisted of these birds, but from the notes I heard I am much inclined to think they were this finch. I could not get within sufficient distance to see them plainly, as they were very shy and took flight at approach.

*Shrike or Butcher Bird*.—One of these birds was seen for several days on Daly avenue, near King street, in the locality where it has appeared several winters. Whether the same bird, or some of its progeny, or a fresh arrival cannot be ascertained.