

a warmer latitude may have been selected. But I must close; I may in my next have something to say about other dear friends—the Song; White-crowned; White-throated and Chipping Sparrows, as well as of other spring visitors—the Golden-winged Woodpecker; the Hermit Thrush; the Veery; the Red-start, the Red-eyed Flycatcher &c.

J. M. LEMOINE.

Spencer Grange, 20 May, 1882.

DEAR SIR,—In the last number of your valuable paper, I notice a letter from Mr. R. Rowe. As I take a great interest in Ornithology, and know how very important it is, that all information on this subject should be thoroughly reliable, I take the liberty of correcting an error in Mr. Rowe's notes, as I feel it a duty I owe to others interested who may be misled by it. He says a fine female Trumpeter Swan (*Cygnus buccinator*, Rich) was shot near this city; the bird referred to by Mr. Rowe was shot by Mr. Barnhill, and mounted by Mr. Carnall, and is now on exhibition for a short time, in the rooms of the Natural History Society of this city, where I have had the pleasure of examining it, and pronounce it to be the American or Whistling Swan (*C. Americanus*, Sharpless); the yellow spot showing distinctly in front of eye; tail composed of twenty feathers; nostril far forward. The interior extremity more forward than half the commissure; wing measuring twenty-one inches; bill four and a quarter. These facts I think are sufficient to convince any one who has studied the differences of the two species, of the identity of this bird, and I think Mr. Rowe will also be convinced if he will examine it again more closely. Mr. Barnhill prizes this bird very highly as it is the only instance of which I can learn of one having been captured in this Province. Can any of your readers inform me of any having been taken in New Brunswick or Nova Scotia? Would Mr. Rowe kindly inform us, in what part of the Province the flights of Cross-bills to which he refers, been seen? If in the vicinity of St. John? and during what month? I cannot learn of anyone else who has seen them near here, as I myself and several of my friends have made special excursions in search of these birds and their nests, and have not been successful in seeing more than an occasional straggler. During the winter of 1879 and 1880 the White-winged Cross-bill (*Loxia*

leucoptera) was particularly abundant; during a two hours tramp, I secured sixteen beautiful specimens and could have secured as many more had I been desirous of so doing. The common Redpoll (*Aegialius linaria*) and Pine Finch (*Corisornis Pinus*) were also very abundant during the same winter, when the woods were made quite lively by the combined songs of these birds; by the middle of April they had all disappeared, and have not been as abundant since, the Cross-bills only appearing in straggling pairs, while an occasional flock of Redpolls have put in an appearance round the farm yards. I have never observed the Red Cross-bill (*Loxia curvirostra Americana*) during the winter months; I shot a pair in July 1879, and have frequently seen them late in the fall in large flocks.

HAROLD GILBERT.

St. John, N.B., May 17, 1882.

PICKERING'S TREE FROG.

(*Hyla Pickeringii*)

This little Tree Frog is usually the first of its class to hail the coming of Spring. It sends out a peculiar crepitant sound, strongly resembling a cricket, hence it is sometimes called "Cricket Frog." It is a true Tree Frog; the extremities of its toes and fingers have round sponge-like protuberances supplied with viscid matter to help it to adhere to anything perpendicular. It is at ease on a sheet of glass, and when confined in a glass vase containing water, it can climb up and remain on the surface of the glass for a long time, perfectly motionless, as if asleep. This cannot be done by a common frog, as it is not provided with glutinous exudation. *Hyla Pickeringii* belongs to the order ANURA, or tailless batrachians. The *Hylidae* are arboreal in summer; they are small frogs having remarkable power of emitting loud and hoarse notes. The ear is fully developed and the family is represented in many portions of this earth. It is toothless; the toes are webbed; the skin more or less warty; under portions of body crowded with small papillae exuding a viscous fluid. Each toe and finger has a dilated spongy disk enabling it to cling to anything that it leaps on, and it relies on the papillae to secure its position on a leaf or branch of a tree. The toes are certainly used, but not in the manner of other frogs. Its back is reddish-brown with stripes resembling St. Andrews cross. A triangular mark on the