

in the trees, even when these are without leaves. These birds were seen as late as February 25th.

The White-winged Crossbill (*Loxia leucoptera*) was here in great numbers late in fall and some at least must have remained for the winter, because on February 8th, a part of one was found at the Experimental Farm by Mr. Groh. The other part had just been eaten by a Northern Shrike. This cross-bill is in its wanderings and appearances almost just as unreliable and erratic as the first two species named.

Of similar habits, only not to the same degree, are the Redpoll (*Acanthis linaria*) and the Pine Siskin (*Spinus pinus*). Both of these little birds have been here this winter in more than usual numbers. Even three of the rare Hoary Redpolls (*A. hornemannii exilipes*) were seen January 24th in a yard on Wurtemberg Street.

An extremely rare freak in nature was seen by the writer on January 19th on Rideau Street. In a flock of English Sparrows nearly at his feet, was a red English Sparrow. Nor was the red over only a small area, or of an indistinct, brownish hue, but very bright and general. It was a crimson shade below, like the red of the male Pine Grosbeak, and a brick-red like the American Crossbill on the back. Otherwise, in size, build, shape and behavior, he was like the English Sparrows in whose company he was; also, the wings and tail were like those of this far too common denizen of our streets. For several reasons it is not likely that this bird was a hybrid between the common sparrow and, say the Purple Finch or one of the Crossbills. It must, therefore, have been a case of erythrism, like there are cases of melanism and albinism. In fact there are usually some albino or partly albino English Sparrows to be seen in winter in our streets, as during this winter, when some with large patches or a collar of white have been seen near By market.

A first record for Ottawa is the occurrence, November 2nd, of several King Eiders (*Somateria spectabilis*). Four of these were shot and mounted. On December 2nd another flock of 75, mostly young ones, came up the river and stayed for a while near some of the boathouses on the river. Ten of these were shot by the ever present gunners. The remainder went up the river and were observed as far as Pembroke, Ont.

Finally, those mysterious wanderers from far northern shores, the Brunnich Murre (*Uria lomvia*), appeared again, December 1st, when six were seen. On the 19th of the same month they came in large numbers, about 500 being seen winging their way up the river. Many of course fall victims to the numerous gunners, with which our river seems to be lined, in and out of