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## THE OTTAWA NATURALIST.

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### THE WINTER FRINGILLIDÆ OF NEW BRUNSWICK.

By WM. H. MOORE, Scotch Lake, N.B.

The list of birds given below includes the members of the finch and sparrow family which occur in New Brunswick, during the months of December, January and February. During these three months migration is as nearly at a standstill as at any time during the year. This family is represented by more species than any other family of birds at this season. So far as known twelve species may occur here during the winter, in greater or lesser numbers, being sometimes plentiful and even abundant and in other years rare. The winter of 1902-3 brought several surprises. The regular winter birds were no more plentiful than common, but some of the summer birds remained throughout the winter, and were really more common than is usual during summer. This fact caused the writer to believe that migration is not governed by temperature alone, but more by the food supply. That winter the conifers, birches and alders carried a good supply of fruits upon which the *Fringillidæ* fed. During the summer of 1903 it was noticed that there were no new cones upon the coniferous trees, and a nearly birdless winter was predicted to follow. The prophecy was correct, the birds were very scarce in this section throughout the winter of 1903-4.

PINE GROSBEAK. *Pinicola enucleator*.

This is a rather rare summer resident throughout the southern half of this province. They come south in autumn in flocks of from three or four to fifty. By people little acquainted with birds they are often mistaken for robins. Their habit of living in summer in coniferous forests, generally far from the haunts of man,