

in different parts of the city, feeding on the berries of the rowan-trees (*Pyrus Americana*). Their note is much like that of their summer cousins the cherry-birds, but louder and more incessant. Even during the worst days of the "cold wave," at the opening of February, their merry voices told how well earned was their old name of Bohemian Chatterer. The epithet *Bohemian* is probably applied with the meaning of *gipsy* in reference to their erratic migrations, for they have no special connection with Southern Germany. In winter they may appear at uncertain times in almost any country of the north temperate zone; and their summer home is in the extreme north, being bounded only by the last stretches of timber country. The few records of nests are from Lapland and Alaska.

NORTHERN SHRIKE (*LANIUS BOREALIS*). This bird, always a sparse winter resident in the open country, has been growing noticeably commoner in Ottawa of late years. On a sunshiny winter morning his song from the top of poplar or maple is really pleasing, as well as a surprise from a bird of such hawklike build and habits. Perhaps he sings the praises of the introducer of the European sparrow, for, in the flocks of these birds, he seems to find a never-failing source of food.

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GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA.

The winter meeting of the Geological Society of America was held at Baltimore, Md., Dec. 27th, 28th and 29th, and was largely attended by the Fellows. There were forty-eight papers on the list and most of these were read by the authors themselves. Prof. T. C. Chamberlin, of the University of Chicago presided. Dr. Adams, of McGill, and Dr. Ami, of the Geological Survey, were the only two Canadians present.

At the opening meeting, Prof. W. B. Clark, of Johns Hopkins University, read a biographical notice of the late Dr. G. H. Williams, of whose life and work a brief sketch has already appeared in *THE NATURALIST*.^{*} Dr. Ami read an appropriate memorial of the late Amos Bowman, F.G.S.A. at one time a member of this club. Among the papers read at this meeting the following were prepared by

^{*} OTTAWA NATURALIST, vol. VIII. No. 7, p. 113, 1894.