BIRD NOTES FOR DECEMBER.

The following notes were sent in by Mr. W. T. Macoun, Associate Editor in Ornithology :

FOX SPARROW.—On the 4th of December I observed a fox sparrow on the Aylmer Road.   This is a very late date for this sparrow.

BRUNNICH'S GUILLEMOT—On Sunday the 12th of December this bird passed up the Ottawa river in large numbers, in fact there were considerably over one thousand.   The birds, in flocks of from 20 to 100, were passing Rockliffe from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m.   Several were shot. On Monday the 13th inst., one was caught alive in a field between Metcalfe and Osgoode stations, which lived for two days.   On examination, the stomach was found empty.   All of the birds obtained were in very poor condition.—GEO. R. WHITE.

PINE GROSBEAK—A small flock of Pine Grosbeaks was seen by Mrs. Ridley, of Vittoria street, eating mountain ash berries, on the 21st December.   This is the earliest date recorded for this winter.—W. T. MACOUN.

THE WESTERN AMERICAN GOSHAWK, *Accipiter atricapillus*. var. *striatulus* is hardly entitled to sub-specific rank and should only be regarded as a geographical race, as complete *intergrading* occurs, and the adults, unless typical, are inseparable.   West of the Cascades the dark form (*striatulus*) is resident, the typical form only occurring in winter ; here, at Vernon, B.C., in the Okanagan district, I believe both forms breed, and I have taken very dark plumaged young (in the beginning of August) in the Gold Range district, forty miles to the east.   There are, I think, no differences in the markings of the two forms, at all events in the adult ; the whole difference lies in the darker plumage of the western form.   Typical young of each form look very different, but are not nearly so constant as the young of *Fales columbarius* and *F. columbarius suckleyi*, as to markings.   As a rule the adult of the western form has a scarlet, and the eastern, an orange or yellow iris, but this is not to be relied on.   However, the two forms are more entitled to separation than the four sub-