

FEBRUARY 19.—About a week ago we found a Redpoll unable to fly though in apparently excellent condition. It was taken into the house and ate well for two days, at the end of which period it died. I found another to-day that went off in the same way. Both of these were in dull plumage.

MARCH 4.—Another Redpoll was discovered dead this morning, a male, in perfect plumage. This had been observed to be weakening for some days past, though like the others it fed to within a short time of its death. An examination showed it to be rather thin, but the cause of death appeared to have been due to a large clot of blood on the back portion of its skull. These birds all died slowly, and when found were in a sitting position, as if they had gone to sleep and so died.

Redpolls have been very plentiful throughout the winter, and as the snow was deep were attracted in large numbers to seeds placed for their use, and consisting chiefly of lambs-quarters, with a small quantity of wild buckwheat mixed in. Is it this abundance of food without the customary exercise in procuring it that has been responsible for this mortality by a form of apoplexy?

MARCH 17.—Watched a full plumaged Redpoll courting a female. She sat quietly on a bough some 20 feet from the ground while he displaying his bright colours to full advantage remained almost stationary before her by means of a rapid movement of his wings. While thus occupied he indulged in incessant song of a decidedly more variable nature than is usually heard at this time of the year. After continuing this arduous love-making for some twenty seconds he flew to a neighbouring tree where he was quickly joined by his lady love, and eventually they flew off in company apparently mutually satisfied.

These birds are supposed to leave us in summer time to breed farther north, and according to Macoun's Catalogue their nests have been found in some numbers both in Labrador and Hudson's Bay during May and June. Now, as they seldom all leave us before the middle of May, and as both males and females were observed in the hills among spruce woods on June 11th, 1909, there seems to be reasonable grounds for suspecting them of breeding in the province.

MAY 10.—On a newly ploughed field that had not been under cultivation for two years, White Grubs (*Lachnosterna* sp.) were very plentiful, but everyone exposed by the plough was eagerly picked up by crows, a large number of which were breeding close at hand. A rough estimate places the number of larvæ eaten at fully 2,000 to the acre, but the full number consumed probably far exceeds that amount.