

writer has been so early as the present one, and the following dates seem worth putting on record for future reference.

The Horned Lark, which generally may be looked for in the middle of February, was this year three weeks behind time. Every other record, however, is far in advance of the usual date at Ottawa. Leaving my house on the morning of March 15, a lovely warm day, I first noticed a pair of English Sparrows carrying straws to their nest. On a mountain ash tree Pine Grosbeaks and Cedar Waxwings were seen eating the berries. Bohemian Waxwings were looked for but none were observed. On the road to the Experimental Farm, flocks of Pine Siskins and Chickadees were busy in the cedars as though to add their testimony to that of the last named and to remind us that winter was not yet gone. In contradiction to this idea, Song Sparrows were on this day heard for the first time—not a single bird, but several—singing their joyous song from the topmost branches of the alders in a piece of swamp land. Robins appeared in numbers also on this day, although single birds had been seen several days earlier. As the Experimental Farm was reached, numerous Crows, some of which had wintered in Dow's swamp, were noisily proclaiming that spring was actually here, and the modest little song of the Horned Larks echoed the good news. Later in the day Red-winged Blackbirds were seen among the rushes on the banks of the Rideau canal. The next record was of the Cowbird on March 22, Bronzed Grackles came in flocks on the 23rd, the Bluebird on the 24th, and the Slate-colored Junco on March 27. As a rule the Song Sparrow is the first arrival and may be expected about March 28.

"Frogs" were heard whistling vociferously at the very early date of March 25.

The first flowers of the year were Snowdrops on March 26, in sheltered spots, Crocusses on March 29 in similiar places, and Siberian Squills on 31st. The Silver Maple, usually our first wild plant to blossom, had fully expanded flowers on March 30, but Mr. W. J. Wilson observed some blossoms on his record James street tree on the 26th; my earliest previous record was April 2 in 1898. On March 30 also Hepaticas in bloom were collected at Hull, and on March 31 the swamp Alders had some catkins fully expanded.

J. F.