

Asiatic maple (*Acer Ginnala*), the fruit of the Berry-bearing Crab (*Pirus baccata*), and the berries of the Mountain Ash. None of these birds had the rich plumage of the adult male. I cannot remember in previous years noticing any of these birds so early in the autumn. Mr. Harrington, however, tells me that he saw about a hundred of them on the ground and in the trees along Meech Lake, Que., on the previous Sunday, October 18th. Mr. W. E. Saunders also saw them at Rat Portage in October, but this last named locality is of course much nearer to their breeding grounds than we are.

The chief object of this note is not, however, so much to record the occurrence of these birds as to urge the members of the Field-Naturalists' Club to try and prevent the senseless destruction by thoughtless boys of these beautiful and delightfully tame winter visitors. They are so tame and confiding that without the slightest difficulty they can be approached within six or eight feet. We have far too few of our bird friends which visit us in the winter, and all should do their utmost to protect those few which do come to us, as our guests, for food and shelter, in winter time.

Very few boys are really cruel ; but nearly all are ill-informed concerning the common objects of the country. Pointing out that a thing is wrong seldom has the effect of preventing boys from doing it ; but might we not appeal to them by pointing out the cowardice of killing such beautiful and gentle creatures as these little birds, which do not make an effort to protect themselves and trust us so much, as hardly to get out of our way when we come within a few feet of them ? Catching these wild birds and putting them in a cage is practically destroying them, because very few of those caught will live in a cage, and they are perhaps the least suited of all of our wild birds to be kept in captivity. Although the soft notes are charming when heard in a state of nature, the song is not such as would justify anyone for keeping the Pine Grosbeak in captivity. As cage-birds, they are large clumsy birds which scatter their food and make a great mess, and they soon become uninteresting to their captors. Lastly, they are Arctic birds which only come south in the winter, and, although with great care they may be kept through a summer, with the exception of perhaps one in a thousand, all die as soon as the hot weather comes.

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