

with a red crown and throat, etc., is probably the male Redpoll. Compare the bird with the description in some good Bird-book, e. g., Chapman's Handbook of Birds of Eastern North America, published by D. Appleton Co., New York.

The Northern Shrike is one of our most interesting winter birds. I have seen him strike down the English Sparrows in the street. He also is said to kill other small animals. He has the habit of hanging his prey upon the thorns of the Hawthorn, and in the forked branches of other trees. The trees thus adorned remind one of a butcher's shop, hence he is often called, "Butcher Bird." Our report shows he is also a musician as well as a freebooter. Listen for his song. "Often in the warm days of March he may be heard singing on the top of some tall tree." His food consists chiefly of mice, noxious insects, and the English Sparrow, so he is a bird worthy of all protection.

The Screech Owl and a smaller species have been reported from Shelburne. Colchester also reports two Owls but neither describes nor names them. A Colchester report also mentions seeing a Robin, March 14, Middle Stewiacke. Robins frequently remain with us for the winter, which probably accounts for this record. The spring migrants are readily distinguished from winter Robins by their brighter coloration. Watch for them.

Note that the Canada Goose has been common in Shelburne, Barrington, all winter; a report from St. John, N. B., mentions a flock passing northward January 29.

It is also interesting to note that birds that come to us in the winter, from the north, seem to gradually thin out towards our southern limits, e. g., Snow Bunting, abundant in places north, seen but once or a few times south. The reverse is true of many birds that go south from us in the winter.

The Acadian Chickadee was formerly called Hudsonian Chickadee. Snow Bunting is synonymous with Snowflake.

A former provincial teacher, remembering the home teachers and our interesting work of last year, writes from Philadelphia, saying that the first Robins she saw this year were at Mount Holly, New Jersey, March 17. On that date she also recorded bees and a junco.

This serves as a very good introduction for spring work. We hope to have reports from many more places for next month. Watch for spring migrants and report as directed in the March REVIEW.

Find a family of thrushes and carefully note what takes place. The old male thrush will sing the sweet song in loud, clear, flutelike notes once, and then stop to listen while the young birds try to imitate the song. Some will utter one note, some two. Some will utter a coarse note, others a sharp note. After a while they seem to forget their lesson and drop out one by one. When all are silent the old thrush tunes up again, and the young thrushes repeat their efforts, and so it goes on for hours. The young birds do not acquire the full song the first year, so the lessons are repeated the following spring.

BIRD PICTURES FREE TO TEACHERS.

The sum of \$15,000 has been contributed to the National Association of Audubon Societies for the purpose of helping teachers to give simple instruction in bird study to their pupils during the year 1914. The Audubon plan of helping teachers in this connection is as follows:

Any teacher or other person who will interest not less than ten children in contributing a fee of ten cents each to become Junior Members and will send this to the office of the National Association, will receive for each child ten of the best colored pictures of wild birds which have ever been published in this country. With each one of these ten pictures goes an outline drawing intended to be used by the child for filling in the proper colors with crayons. Each picture is also accompanied with a four page leaflet discussing the habits and general activities of the bird treated. Each child also receives an Audubon button. The cost of publishing and mailing this material is a little more than twice as much as the child's fee.

The teacher who forms such a class receives without cost to herself one full year's subscription to the beautiful illustrated magazine "Bird-Lore." This is the leading publication in the world on bird-study. To the teacher also there is sent other free literature containing many hints on methods of putting up bird boxes, feeding birds in winter, and descriptions of methods for attracting birds about the home or school house.

The ten subjects supplied to children this year are as follows: Nighthawk, Mourning Dove, Meadowlark, Flicker, Sparrow Hawk, Screech Owl, Purple Martin, Cuckoo, Humming Birds and Robin.

In 1913 school children to the number of 53,157 availed themselves of this opportunity. Hundreds of enthusiastic letters have been received from teachers.

As long as the Association's special fund for this work holds out this offer is open to any teacher in the United States or Canada. Any teacher reading this notice may immediately form a class, send in the dues and receive the material, or further information will be gladly furnished upon request.

T. GILBERT PEARSON. *Secretary.*

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