

On Ash Wednesday, passing, on snowshoes, through a grove of cedars, in Ottawa East, I was puzzled to know the meaning of an odd-looking trail which was found in a number of places. Forming a continuous furrow about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inch. wide and almost as deep, it was apparently the track of some small rodent though the foot-marks could not be distinctly seen in the light snow. It seemed, however, to come from nowhere and lead to nowhere, but lay in separate patches of redoubling and zig-zagging as intricate as a labyrinthine puzzle. At last, passing round a clump of trees, we flushed a pine grosbeak in the act of tracing one of these mysterious patterns as he gleaned from the surface of the snow the scattered seeds which the last storm had shaken from the cedar trees. As soon as one knew what it meant, it was easy to detect the mark of the tips of the wings on both sides of the trail, where at intervals he had taken a short flight, whenever the snow was too light to sustain his weight.

A small flock of American goldfinches in their modest winter plumage was seen on 14th February.

The Northern shrike has become a very regular winter resident with us, much to the discomfiture of the flocks of house sparrows. He is our only winter songster and though not of the highest order, the carol he pours forth to the first bright sunshine in February is a pleasing earnest of the songs of summer.

Snowflakes, Black-cap chickadees, Downy woodpeckers and Whitebreasted nuthatches are the only other birds observed this season, none of the rarer winter visitants having been reported.

A. G. K.

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ROYAL SOCIETY OF CANADA.—*May Meeting, 1896, Ottawa.*  
—The Fifteenth General Meeting of the Royal Society of Canada will be held in the Normal School Building, Ottawa, during the week commencing Tuesday, 19th May next. Titles and short abstracts of papers must be forwarded to the Secretary, at Ottawa, at least by the first of May. Abstracts must be type-written when possible. Fellows who intend to be present should notify the Secretary in the first week of May.

The Ottawa Field-Naturalist's Club will, it is expected, be duly represented on this as on previous occasions.