

## WINTER BIRDS AT POINT PELEE, ONT.

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On February 1st, 1909, Mr. J. S. Wallace and the writer made an expedition to Point Pelee to determine what birds were passing the winter in that locality. This is the spot where a greater winter population may be expected than in any other part of the mainland of Ontario, on account of its being the most southerly extension, and although our observations were partly made during a cold blizzard, and the ground was snow covered during the entire visit, yet we found more than forty species, as detailed in a number of THE OTTAWA NATURALIST of last year.

The winter of 1909-1910 came on slowly, and there was really no very severe weather. The lowest temperature at London, up to the 19th of February, was about 10 below zero, and this would indicate that the lowest temperature at Point Pelee was about 10 above zero. This is approximately the same temperature that we met with last year on our winter trip. During the earlier parts of the present winter, the ground was comparatively free from snow, and yet, even in November, when winter had not yet begun, the dearth of birds, not only at Point Pelee, but all through Ontario, was striking.

During January and early February there was an unusual quantity of snow, and this is the only respect in which the winter has apparently been a difficult one for the birds. Moreover, snow itself is not supposed to be an inconvenience to many birds, except as it covers their food, and I noticed in November, as well as February, that the crop of berries at Point Pelee on the various species of *Cornus* and *Viburnum* was very large, so that food for a good many species must have been abundant. Nevertheless, we succeeded in recording only twenty-four species from February 11th to 14th, 1910, as against over forty in the first few days of February, 1909. The former winter was signalized by the influx of many northern species. Redpolls were abundant, and Crossbills, Evening Grosbeaks and others were seen; but along with them were found at the Point, Hermit Thrushes, Chewinks, and White-throated Sparrows in considerable numbers, which species were entirely absent during our visits in November, December, January, and February of the past winter. Robins, Bluebirds and Flickers, which were there in large numbers a year ago, were comparatively rare this year. Several other species which were seen the previous winter in small numbers, were absent, but this, of course, would be expected. The surprising part of the whole matter is