

ORNITHOLOGY.

BIRD NOTES.

BY W. T. MACOUN.

Spring is the best time to begin a study of our birds. Almost every day for several weeks there are new arrivals to help maintain one's enthusiasm once it has been aroused. There are few species of birds in Canada, compared with the number of insects and plants, and they are so readily recognized after a little study that it is surprising more people do not know a greater number of them. Will not some of the younger members of the society begin a study of our birds this spring? They will find themselves well repaid.

Few birds were noted last winter, and the Pine Grosbeaks which often come in great numbers were seen but rarely. Birds were again late in coming this spring, though not quite so late as last year. The following list has been compiled from notes made by various observers this spring. As a rule, when a bird is observed several days after the first record, the date is not published as it would make the list too cumbersome.

1899.

Nov. 2—WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL, *Loxia leucoptera*. Flock of a dozen. Miss Harmer. On Nov. 16th, Mr. C. Guillet saw seven feeding on alder seeds near Patterson's creek, three of which were males. He saw two more on Dec. 4th.

Jan. 9—SHARP-SHINNED HAWK, *Accipiter velox*. One seen by Mr. Geo. R. White.

18—PINE GROSBEAK, *Pinicola enucleator*. Flock of a dozen eating tamarac buds. Dr. James Fletcher. A flock of six was seen by Mr. Geo. R. White on March 9th. There are no other records of this bird.

Peb. 4—SAW-WHET OWL, *Nyctala acadica*. One seen by Mr. White, and one found dead in a shed in January by Mr. J. A. Guignard.

11—PRAIRIE-HORNED LARK, *Otocoris alpestris praticola*. Two seen by A. B. Rowan-Legg near Hurdman's Bridges. Seen by Dr. Fletcher at the Experimental Farm on Feb. 14th. Numerous after that date.

12—AMERICAN CROW, *Corvus americanus*. Mr. Geo. R. White. Crows could be seen from time to time at the Experimental Farm all winter, but this is the first definite record. Mr. White says the migration occurred on March 17th.