

BIRD NOTES.

By W. T. MACOUN.

Winter birds were not numerous at Ottawa this year with the exception of the house sparrow, which is always here in large numbers. Some interesting notes, however, have been taken and these should be recorded.

The snowy owl has been much commoner than usual. Three live specimens in a store on Sparks street attracted much attention during the month of January.

The first pine grosbeaks of which I have a record were seen by me on Jan. 26th at the Normal School, when two males were observed, and on the following day a flock of from eight to ten birds were noted none of which, however, was highly coloured. The birds may have been here earlier than these dates but no notes were sent in. They have been quite common ever since and were seen to-day, Feb. 18th.

On Feb. 6th I noticed two white-breasted nuthatches on a shed near Concession street.

The following notes were supplied by Mr. W. A. D. Lees and are of special interest :

"On 18th December, 1901, I saw, near my house in Ottawa East, a bird which I took to be a meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*). I was not quite certain of my identification as the bird rose suddenly from near the open end of a street drain and flew some distance off and took refuge under some old lumber where I had not the time to follow it. Again, yesterday, 9th January, 1902, I saw the same bird flitting from place to place along the railway embankment near the round-house in Ottawa East, and this time I satisfied myself beyond a doubt that my first guess as to the species had been correct. So far as I know this is the first winter record of this bird here, and it may interest the readers of THE OTTAWA NATURALIST to know of it."

On Feb. 6th Mr. Lees, in company with another person, saw a robin at the Normal School grounds feeding with a flock of pine grosbeaks. It seemed plump and in good health.

On Dec. 15th I saw a specimen of the bohemian chatterer feeding on the berries of the mountain ash on Somerset street, and I carefully noted the markings of the bird.