

Carpodacus purpureus at Portland, Maine, in Winter. — Last Autumn (1887) I saw Purple Finches (*Carpodacus purpureus*) in the outskirts of the city up to November 11,—later than they had ever been seen in this vicinity. Having no suspicion that they would remain through the winter, and being very busy, I then ceased to look for them. During the last of January, however, I frequently heard bird notes I could not ascribe to any resident species, or to any species known to winter about Portland, and I was told by friends living in the suburbs that the mountain ash berries there were being eaten by a strange bird. On January 26 and 27, Portland was visited by the severest storm that has occurred here for nearly twenty years. One might think that such weather (there was now over three feet of snow) would have discouraged a bird unused to our winter season; but such was not the case, for, early in the morning of February 1, I saw a Purple Finch (a female or immature male) feeding on the berries of a mountain ash which grows in front of my study window. That afternoon I noticed three birds, an adult male and two females or immature males, in the same tree. On February 8, I saw three adult males feeding in a crab-apple tree from which the fruit was not gathered in the fall. For the succeeding twelve days, besides seeing individuals in mountain ash trees, I never passed this crab-apple tree without noticing these birds there. The largest number seen was seven, — five males and two females or immature males. During these twelve days* five inches of snow fell and the thermometer averaged 18.5° Fahrenheit. For the next two weeks I was out of town and unable to take notes. On March 10 I found at least eight Purple Finches in a large flock of *Spinus pinus*; it was impossible to count them accurately. For the next three days they fed in the same place (under a mountain ash where the snow had blown off) in about the same numbers. On March 13, came a terrific snow-storm which will hardly need to be recalled to Eastern readers of 'The Auk.' Nevertheless, on the following day, Purple Finches were still here, and I have seen them every day since up to the present time (March 20). It may here be stated that their earliest recorded arrival at Portland is March 23 (*N. C. Brown*, Proc. Port. Soc. Nat. Hist., 1882, p. 12). Of late they have grown shy and do not associate so much with the Pine Finches. The largest number I have seen together is twelve, and that only once.

When it is remembered that that part of the winter during which I saw no specimens was by far the mildest, I think no one will doubt that Purple Finches have been resident here this year. There seems to be no previous record of their occurrence at all in winter so far north in New England as Portland; and it is remarkable that they should have chosen an unusually severe winter for what may be a first experiment. — JOHN C. BROWN, *Portland, Maine.*

*At this time a notice of their occurrence up to February 20, which was published in the Portland 'Daily Advertiser' for March 20, was handed in to the Portland Society of Natural History.

Ammodramus leconteii at Yemassee, S. C.—I have been on the lookout for Leconte's Sparrow every winter since I shot the one which Mr. Brewster recorded in 'The Auk' for July, 1886, but have been unsuccessful until February 9 of this year when I shot a fine male as he flew up from an old abandoned rice-field. This bird is the only one I have seen since I shot the one in 1886; and the bird can be considered as only a straggler to lower South Carolina.—ARTHUR T. WAYNE, *Charleston, S. C.*

Ammodramus henslowii wintering in large numbers at Yemassee, S. C.—I shot during the months of January and February of this year thirty-six Henslow's Sparrows; several seen to fall in the high grass could not be found. In the series of thirty-six examples before me they vary greatly in size and markings. Some have the pectoral band so dark and heavy as to hide the other surface markings, and at a glance one would pronounce the breast unbroken jet black.

I have never found this species wintering here before. It is a very rare bird with us, and is only to be found in any numbers in the fall.—ARTHUR T. WAYNE, *Charleston, S. C.*

Occurrence of Vireo flavoviridis at Riverside, California.—On October 1, 1887, I noticed, while hunting in the Santa Ana River bottom, a little bird flitting about in the top of a high cotton-wood tree. It was secured, and to my surprise, I found it to be a *Vireo flavoviridis*. Mr. Ridgway, to whom I sent it for positive identification, says it is the most highly colored specimen he has seen. This Vireo is confined to the Lower Rio Grande Valley and southward, therefore my specimen must have been a straggler.—WILL W. PRICE, *Riverside, Cal.*

The Northern Range of Oporornis formosa in Illinois.—May 23, 1887, I secured a female of *Oporornis formosa* one-half mile southeast of Grand Crossing, among the undergrowth in a small isolated patch of woods. The finding of this species in that locality is an event of unusual interest. A specimen has been reported to me by my friend, Mr. H. K. Coale, of Chicago, as found by Mr. R. B. Trouslet at Plano, Illinois, a few years ago. These records mark the northern limit of this species in this State, so far as I know. Mr. Robert Ridgway, of Washington writes, however, in answer to my inquiries, that the only record of the occurrence of *O. formosa*, to his knowledge, in northern Illinois is that mentioned by Mr. E. W. Nelson (Bull. Essex Inst., VIII, 1876, p. 101), who gives the species as being "a very rare summer visitant from Southern Illinois," but on what evidence Mr. Nelson based his statement is not specifically mentioned.—JOSEPH L. HANCOCK, *Chicago, Ill.*

Protonotaria citrea in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania.—On May 15, 1887, I took a high-plumaged male Prothonotary Warbler near Arcola, Montgomery County, Pa. It was feeding well up in a tall larch on the banks of Perkiomen Creek. This was the only one of the species seen at



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