

meadows which border the Croton River near its mouth. Some dozen or more specimens have been secured in the last four or five years, and without exception all of them were of the smaller inland variety. They are easily distinguished from the typical maritime species, by their smaller size, shorter bill, and darker plumage. They are evidently migrants, as none of them have been observed in this vicinity in summer. —A. K. FISHER, M. D., *Sing Sing, N. Y.*

Swamp Sparrows and Yellow-rumps—A Question of Evidence.—It seems well to caution collectors against the inference that a bird winters in a given locality because it happens to be found there at some time during the winter. The writers of two interesting notes, printed on page 216 of the present volume of 'The Auk,' make this hasty generalization. It is hardly possible that Swamp Sparrows passed the winter in Massachusetts, in a season so rigorous as was that of 1884-85 after the middle of January; Mr. Chadbourne certainly does not produce sufficient evidence for the conclusion that they did so. It is even less likely that Yellow-rumped Warblers tarried in Maine throughout the same season; no person who kept a record of the weather during that remarkable winter will, I think, draw such an inference from Mr. Goodale's note. —NATHAN CLIFFORD BROWN, *Portland, Me.*

The Song of *Cardinalis virginianus*.—Mr. Bicknell's note on the song of the Cardinal Grosbeak reminds me that it sings at a much *earlier* date in Kansas. It is a permanent resident, abundant at all seasons. Its song may be heard from February 1 to August. Should the days be bright and warm, its song begins even in January. If, during February, the weather should become extremely cold, its song ceases for a time. Like the Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottus*), it sings at night. I have heard its song in the 'small hours' of the night, during February, March, and April. —D. E. LANTZ, *Manhattan, Kans.*

The Black-throated Bunting, Yellow-breasted Chat, and Connecticut Warbler in Ontario.—On June 1, 1884, Mr. Wm. L. Bailey, collecting with Mr. A. P. Saunders and the writer at Point Pelee, found several Black-throated Buntings in a meadow about two miles from the end of the Point. Knowing of no previous record in Canada, we were all much interested; and subsequently, in extending our search, we found one or more pairs in almost every field. All our efforts to discover a nest seemed doomed to fail; and even when we spent much time and care in watching the birds, and marking down the place where the supposed nest was, we could never succeed. The males spent much time in singing their monotonous ditty from tree-tops and fence-posts, and even during the heat of the day our presence was sufficient to start them going. This appeared to act as a partial alarm to the female, and if we approached, the male would fly over her and give an alarm-note, precisely after the manner of the Bobolink under similar circumstances.

On June 6, in passing through one of the 'Bunting fields' on the return trip, the writer flushed a female from a fresh set of five eggs of the usual size and color. The nest, which is now before me, was placed *on*, not *in* the ground, among the stems of a tuft of weeds, and is composed of leaves externally, and lined with fine, dry grass. Its measurements are as follows: outside diameter, 100 mm.; inside diameter, 63 mm.; height outside, 63 mm.; depth inside, 45 mm. These birds were observed in every suitable locality on the Point, and on the return drive they were heard constantly till we had gone three miles into the mainland, when no more were noticed.

On June 6, when about a mile farther up the Point, the writer heard a strange note, and at every search for the author found an Orchard Oriole, and, not being very familiar with that bird, attributed the note to it. Shortly afterward Mr. Bailey arrived at the same place, and called out, "Did you hear the Chat?" Instantly every one was on the *qui vive*, and after some time a glimpse of the bird was obtained, but not the bird itself. A hunt for it on the two following days was finally rewarded by the capture of a fine female Yellow-breasted Chat, with ovaries as large as a pea. Further search resulted in nothing more than this, the first capture in Canada; and though we looked carefully, we did not even find the beginning of a nest. Reference has already been made in 'The Auk' to the remains of a specimen of this species that Mr. Thos. McIlwraith picked up at Hamilton, Ont. No doubt they are regular summer visitors at Pelee Island, Point Pelee, and some places along the shore of Lake Erie.

On September 15, 1883, there flew into a store in this city a Connecticut Warbler, which was, as far as I then knew, the first Canadian specimen. In December of the same year, a consultation with Mr. McIlwraith disclosed the fact that he had some specimens of the same species, which had never been satisfactorily separated from the Mourning Warbler. These have been in his possession for years. Again in May, 1884, attracted by a new note, after spending some time in a swampy thicket, I succeeded in capturing another of this species near London; and since knowing their note have found them tolerably common, but quite shy here as swamp birds, and quite common at Point Pelee, for a few days in June, as ground feeders in dry places, where, on the above trip, several were procured. — W. E. SAUNDERS, *London, Ont.*

A Belated Bird.— The Chewink (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*) returns to this region in limited numbers every spring. It is not usual to see very many of them, a pair at most together, and oftener one alone. They depart as regularly every autumn, and we see no more of them until some pleasant day in spring, when the weather has become quite warm. But very curiously to me, one of these birds did not depart with its associates in the fall, and is still here (Dec. 21, 1884). During the past ten days the mercury has ranged from 10° to 31° below zero, and yet my Chewink stays about the barnyard, as bright and lively as though we were in the midst of warm, bud-swelling spring days! On the coldest morning, I found him