

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.