

**Abnormal Plumage of a Pine Grosbeak.**—On the 30th of December, 1895, I took a specimen of the female Pine Grosbeak (*Pinicola enucleator*) at Shelburne, N. H. On looking the bird over carefully I noticed an unbroken ring of feathers, like those of the upper back in color and texture, extending over the left shoulder, where the band measures .75 of an inch in width, and continuing across the breast and terminating on the right shoulder, its width having decreased .20 of an inch. The band is composed of thirty-three feathers, that is, beginning to count as soon as they are out of their normal position on the back, and are of much deeper slate color than those above or below them; the centre of each feather is tinged with chrome yellow and they are longer than the surrounding ones, standing out almost like a ruff. The flesh of the neck was perfectly normal and the bird apparently had never been injured. I have the specimen now in my collection.—REGINALD HEBER HOWE, JR., *Longwood, Mass.*

**The American Crossbill at Sea.**—Early on the morning of February 26, 1896, an American Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra minor*), a female or dull-colored male, was found on the deck of the steamer 'Trinidad' bound for New York from the Bermudas. I saw the bird, which was in an exhausted condition, at eight o'clock, and was told that it had come aboard some time before that hour. The American coast must then have been about three hundred miles distant.

When the 'Trinidad' left Grassy Bay, late in the afternoon of February 24, there was little wind, nor was there much until noon of the day following, when it began to blow from the northeastward, freshening constantly, and developing into a gale before the bird came aboard.—JOHN CLIFFORD BROWN, *Portland, Me.*

**Harris's Sparrow in Spring Dress in Autumn.**—While out shooting on Nov. 1, 1895, I shot a Harris's Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*) in full spring plumage. It is a male bird of the year. It was in a large flock of Harris's Sparrows, but was the only one in spring plumage, all the others being in fall dress.—SIDNEY S. WILSON, *St. Joseph, Mo.*

**A Brown Thrasher (*Harporhynchus rufus*) in Massachusetts in Winter.**—On December 15, 1894, I discovered a Brown Thrasher in Arlington, Mass. I made my identification as sure as possible without shooting the bird, because I knew that the middle of December was later than this bird usually remains in Massachusetts. A few days after I first saw him, Mr. Walter Faxon, to whom I had reported my observations, again found the bird in almost exactly the same spot.

From Dec. 15 until Christmas, the bird was visited regularly, and he seemed to be able to supply himself with food; but on Dec. 27, there came the first heavy snowstorm of the winter, covering the ground with from four to five inches of snow, on top of which was a crust strong