

D. Sherrerd. The bird seems to have passed its second autumn, having attained the black throat of the adult, but only a clouded suffusion of orange on the breast and rump. This is the first winter record of the species for New Jersey. I have to thank Mr. Witmer Stone for identifying the specimen and the Division of Birds, United States National Museum for corroborating that identification and supplying additional information. During the preparation of the skin no wounds were discovered, but the stomach proved empty and the body's supply of fat absolutely exhausted. The upper mandible is almost broken through near the tip and the plumage of the under parts very dark, as if stained by contact with the earth. However, snow had covered the ground for twelve days and was accompanied by constant cold weather. Although the bird may have been in a starved condition previous to the 5th, when the first snow arrived, I am sure it did not die until about the time it was found, for several snowstorms occurred between the 5th and the 16th and these would have covered the body up, which on the contrary was found on top of the snow. It is likely that the mild early winter lured the bird to stay with us, that the accident to the bill rendered the procuring of food difficult, and that the sudden and bitter cold of the 5th and subsequent days completed the work starvation had begun.—ROBERT THOMAS MOORE, *Haddonfield, N. J.*

Many Purple Finches at Portland, Maine, in February.—The mountain ash trees in the Western Promenade section of Portland attracted no Robins,¹ under my observation, during the very cold winter of 1911–1912; but they nourished an extraordinary number of Purple Finches (*Carpodacus purpureus purpureus*) in the month of February. On Feb. 2 I saw four birds together, at least one of them being in rosy plumage. On Feb. 28, about 9.30 A. M., I counted fourteen birds in one tree, most of which were in rosy plumage. On Feb. 29, about 2.30 P. M., I counted fifty-five birds in and about seven mountain ash trees, twenty-two of them being at one tree and a majority of the total number, apparently, in rosy plumage. On each one of these occasions all the birds were sluggish and rather silent.

Since the first announcement,² of the wintering of this species at Portland, twenty-four years ago, it has been seen by several observers, and there are winter records which need not here be cited, for other localities in Maine; but I believe it has not hitherto been noted except in small numbers.—NATHAN CLIFFORD BROWN, *Portland, Me.*

Crossbills (*Loxia curvirostra minor*) in Chester Co., Pa., in Summer.—I spent June 16–17, 1911, in company with John D. Carter of Lansdowne, Pa., on and near the Pine barrens of a serpentine ridge in the extreme southwest corner of Chester County, Pa., bordering on the Maryland line. In

¹ Auk, XXVIII, pp. 270–272.

² John Clifford Brown, Auk, V, p. 209.

the scattered growth of Pitch Pine (*Pinus rigida*) which covers the barrens and reaches a height of from fifteen to twenty-five feet we found a group of four Crossbills (*Loxia curvirostra minor*) which we watched for ten minutes or more. They appeared to be two adults and two young in juvenal plumage. One certainly was and we assumed that the other was also; it kept up a continual calling as if to bring the old birds but we did not notice them feed it.

They were gleaning on the new growth of the pines, quite indifferent to our near approach, and seemed to be eating the pinkish terminal buds, frequently cutting them off entirely or in part. We readily approached within thirty feet of them.—CHARLES J. PENNOCK, *Kennett Square, Pa.*

Lapland Longspur (*Calcarius lapponicus lapponicus*) in Delaware.—

The occurrence of this species on the Atlantic coast plain more frequently than had formerly been supposed, was suggested by Mr. R. F. Miller, in *Cassinia* for 1906, p. 63, and the same conclusion was presented to me when these birds were found last winter near Delaware City, Del., as noted in 'The Auk' for January, 1911, p. 114, a subsequent trip to the same marshes, on December 19, 1910, resulted in finding a number of Longspurs and five specimens were secured.

On November 9, 1911, an examination of the same ground discovered Shore Larks (*Otocoris a. alpestris*) fairly abundant; this being the species with which the Longspurs had been found associated the previous winter, but no Longspurs were recognized. On February 1, 1912, with snow and ice covering most of the same marsh, I made a lengthy search for Longspurs. Flocks of Shore Larks were found and followed for several hours. They were in bunches of 4, 8, 12 and 25. In the earlier part of the day the ice and snow-crust were brittle, walking was noisy and the birds not easily approached at close quarters, but by afternoon the sun shone out, the noise was lessened and the birds were getting more food and showed less wariness. The smaller flocks contained no Longspurs. A lone bird that was flushed and gave a two-note rather soft, sweet call and flew high and wild, was thought to be a Longspur, but not until the largest flock was closely followed for an hour or more and carefully examined repeatedly, did I suspect it contained other than Shore Larks. Finally one bird apparently smaller was seen to fly off with the flock and later when they were flushed, on a near approach, the single remaining bird was shot and proved to be a Longspur, adult female. While I think there were few if any other Longspurs with these Shore Larks, the fact of again finding even one of the rarer species in the locality would perhaps indicate their rather regular occurrence.

On bare ground it was impossible to distinguish the two species at a distance of twenty-five yards. On the snow or as they arose singly the distinguishing marks of the Shore Larks could be recognized but when the alarm was given and several or all arose together it was not possible to determine definitely the presence of Longspurs among a large number of Shore Larks.