

brother, Dr. F. A. Saunders, who collected on the Experimental Farm in 1890 and 1891 when, on September 27, he took a pair, male and female, of Alpestris and thereafter found them daily, and collected more than a dozen, until the 15th of November; in the following spring they were again present in flocks and he took a male and female on May 16.

Circumstances prevented him from repeating these records in later years, and the Ottawa men declare the birds do not now visit the region.

It will be noted that while everyone has failed to find Alpestris in the south-western end of Ontario, except during the winter months, they reached Ottawa as early as September 27th in 1890, and were at Lake Superior on October 4th, 1925. All the Northern Country produces large larks every year, and all these larks migrate south in the Autumn, returning north in the Spring, and while they, like the Olive-sided Flycatcher, doubtless pass over most of the territory without stopping, yet it is likely that there are favoured locations where they spend some little time. If the thirty birds which I saw on October 4 at Lake Superior were due to appear in Middlesex in December, they must have put in the intervening time somewhere. On October 22, 1924, I saw fifteen larks at the south-east corner of Lake Huron in a location specially suited to their needs and perhaps they were large northern varieties. Some day we shall know where these birds spend November in Ontario.— W. E. SAUNDERS.

WHISTLING SWANS AT HAMILTON, ONTARIO.— On March 11, 1927, the writer, with Mrs. J. G. Farmer, Miss Ida Merriman and William Paterson, had the good fortune to see a flock of about thirty Whistling Swans (*Olor columbianus*) on Hamilton Harbour. When first seen, eighteen were counted, standing on the edge of the ice about a quarter of a mile away from the observers, across open water. These rose and flew about in slow spirals, and were joined by another group of about the same number, one or two birds calling while in flight. The whole flock resettled on the ice at a greater distance from the observers, who watched them walk about on the ice, and finally fly out

of sight, in an irregular line which did not rise far above the ice. Whistling Swans are now reported here once or twice each spring, usually towards the end of March; but this was the first time any of this party had been fortunate enough to see them here.—R. OWEN MERRIMAN.

GREATER REDPOLL (*Acanthis linaria rostrata*) AT STRATHROY, ONTARIO.—During the erratic visits of redpolls to this locality, much time has been spent with them in the hope of finding species other than *linaria*, yet in my field trips on various dates and in different localities all specimens secured and studied were the common one. The patience of ornithologists, however, is usually rewarded eventually. Throughout the winter of 1295-26 many fruitless early morning excursions were made with winter visitors in mind; on March 5, 1926, a flock of about forty redpolls was found feeding in an alfalfa field two miles east of the Town of Strathroy, Ontario. Some of the birds appeared larger than others so a few were collected, proving to be the Greater Redpoll (*Acanthis linaria rostrata*). Another one of this species was taken March 16 near the same locality; it was in common with two Common Redpolls (*A. l. linaria*), feeding on Lamb's-quarters' (*Chenopodium album*) seeds.

The five specimens of *rostrata* secured were males, none having the rosy suffusion of the breast. The general colouration was very similar to *linaria*, but the upper breast, sides of neck and flanks were washed with light brown. These birds were at once separated from the Common Redpoll by their much larger size; the measurements ran:

Catalogue No.	Ex-panse	Lgth.	Wing	Tail	Tar-sus
2456.....	242	152	79	65	18
2457.....	242	149	81	63	19
2458.....	238	149	77	61	19
2459.....	235	147	76	59	19
2483.....	242	150	81	66	18

These skins, through the kindness of W. E. Saunders, London, were sent to Washington D.C., and determined by H. C. Oberholser.—A. A. WOOD.







Merriman, R. Owen. 1927. "Whistling Swans at Hamilton, Ontario." *The Canadian field-naturalist* 41(4), 92–92. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.338797>.

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**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.338797>

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