noon of January 31, 1885, I met Mr. Hitchcock, and together we went to
the place where he saw the Sparrows on December 29, and also to the one
in which they were found by Mr. Lamb in January, 1883.* Quite near
the latter locality were the fresh and only partly frozen remains of a Spar¬
row (an undoubted *Melospiza palustris*, as I afterward made sure by
comparison) which had evidently been killed by a Shrike.

From the above it would appear almost certain that the birds were
present during the entire month of January, and it is very probable that
they might have escaped my notice when I looked for them later. If the
original flock consisted of only four there could not have been more than
two left for me to find, and in the tangled underbrush, which, in one
swampy place at least, extends over several acres, they might easily have
eluded me.

I have always considered that any species found here in January was
an undoubted winter resident, and its presence at any date during that
month sufficient proof of this. Mr. William Brewster tells me that he
considers the autumnal migration ended here by December 25, and Janu¬
ary, the one winter month when all birds (except such erratic species as
Crossbills, Pine Grosbeaks, etc.) are settled for a brief period. If January
is not accepted as the test month it will be almost impossible to de¬
termine our rarer winter residents, for early in February some of our
most hardy spring birds often begin to arrive.

It seems to me it is unsafe to say that *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,*” for there are numerous
instances recorded of the wintering of certain birds far north of their
usual habitat at that season, even during exceptionally cold winters.†
The warm and open character of the winter of 1884-’85 previous to Janu¬
ary 1st might also have caused the birds to establish themselves in a locality
which they would have been unwilling or unable to leave later.

I think it is almost equally certain that the Yellow-rumped Warblers
were also wintering at Pine Point, Maine, as they do regularly at Milton,
Mass. (only about ninety miles south), where I have found them every
winter for a number of years.—*Arthur P. Chadbourne,* Cambridge,
Mass.

† I find that the following southern species have been recorded from Eastern Massa¬
chusetts during the very cold winter of 1882-83:—Flock of six *Sialia sialis* (Job, Bul¬
etin Nuttall Club, VIII, 1883, p. 149); two *Melothrus ater* (Spelman, *ibid.,* p. 121); and a *Dendræca pinus* (Brewster, *ibid.,* p. 120). See also Auk, I, 1884, pp. 294, 295, and Bulletin Nuttall Club, IV, 1879, p. 118.
General Notes. [October this vicinity November 10, 1878. These dates may serve to show that the species is a pretty early spring- and a late-fall-migrant. In regard to its habits I can only repeat what others have said again and again, namely that it is a great hider. My attention was called to the bird by a low call not unlike the characteristic chirp of the Song Sparrow, but peculiarly sharp and shrill. Going for the bird, it darted out from one bush into another, a distance of about ten yards. I saw it alight in the middle of the bush on the ground and determined to watch the little stranger. I kept my eyes fixed on him for fully ten minutes, but he remained motionless and silent, and his patience seemed unimpaired when mine was all gone.

The capture of Dendraca kirtlandi, male, May 8, 1885, is worthy of special mention, as it is the first record of its occurrence west of the Mississippi River. It may also be new to learn that this Warbler is in its general ways mostly like D. palmarum. It flew up from the ground on the River des Pires, a few yards from the water, and alighted behind a bush a few feet from the ground. One glance at the bird was sufficient to tell me that it was a Kirtland's Warbler; such a peculiar looking bird it is. Concealing myself I watched the bird for a few minutes, and found that its habits seem to be terrestrial, that it has the same wagging motion of the tail as the Yellow Redpole, but that in the carriage of its body and in the manner of evading discovery by skilfully alighting behind a protecting object it resembles Opororhitis.—Otto Widmann, St. Louis, Mo.

On the Feeding Habits of Phalaenoptilus nuttalli.—Just without the picket fence that encloses in part the parking of my present residence at Fort Wingate, New Mexico, then runs a wide board-walk. Beyond this is a broad, well-kept gravel road, standing between the former and an open level plot of ground of about an acre's extent. For a number of evenings past my neighbors have tried to induce me to come out and see a strange-acting bird that disported itself in this roadway, between twilight and dark. I paid little heed to this, as from its description I believed it to be the half-grown young of the Chordediles of this region, which is very abundant in the neighborhood. Last night, however, the bird having been described to me as a small Owl with a white throat, by one of its observers, I took my cane-gun and made a search for it up and down the road-way. I had not far to go, when, as well as I could see by the light of a very young moon, I noticed a small, dark-brownish looking bird apparently amusing himself by making short jumps of two feet or more up in the air, then resting on the road to repeat the performance in a moment or so. Another was going through similar capers on the broad walk. They seemed to be perfectly oblivious to my presence, and, indeed, some children further along were trying to catch them with their hands. As I had never heard the note of the Poor-wills in the vicinity, it did not strike me at first that it might be this bird; moreover, its action was so odd that I hardly knew what to make of it. At any rate one soon noiselessly lit, like a great, gray moth, directly in front of me in the road, but a few feet distant. It was extremely difficult to see him, and it was more

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