

Ohio Notes.—The Red-headed Woodpeckers (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*) have practically deserted this section. Prior to 1899 they were numerous, but during the past three years they have become less and less common, until now they are almost extinct as far as this locality is concerned. Formerly almost every telegraph pole contained one or more nests, but this year I examined poles extending over sixteen miles but found only eleven nests.

The only cause that can be assigned for their disappearance is the erection of new poles which were, perhaps, too solid for the construction of nests. The other species of woodpeckers, which usually nest in trees, show no decrease.

There has been a noticeable increase in the numbers of Baltimore Orioles in the past two years and now they are as common as Catbirds and Bluebirds. The Bluebirds (*Sialia sialis*) have decreased to some extent, but are still common. Cowbirds have deserted this immediate vicinity, while ten miles west they are numerous.—NAT S. GREEN, *Camp Dennison, Ohio.*

Birds Killed by Hailstones.—On September 20, 1902, we had in 'The Highlands' of this city a severe hail-storm, lasting from 6.00–6.25 P. M., during which time hail from $\frac{1}{2}$ in. to $\frac{3}{4}$ in. in diameter fell hard and fast. On the following morning, when the storm had cleared away, beneath the tall cottonwood trees at the intersection of West Twenty-fourth Avenue and Boulevard F, lay scores of little bodies of feathered dead. There were beneath fourteen trees eighty-four birds by actual count, one tree alone, the largest of them all, spreading its arms above the forms of twenty-five sleeping songsters. House Finches and English Sparrows, that on previous days had battled among the branches above now lay side by side, with half a dozen Robins interspersed.—A. H. FELGER, *Denver, Colo.*

Vernacular Names of Birds.—In the present number of 'The Auk' (pp. 38–42) Dr. Edwin W. Doran proposes certain rules for the construction of vernacular names of birds, relating mainly to the use or non-use of the hyphen in certain classes of names. If the use of the hyphen could be permanently regulated by the formulation of a set of rules, how great a boon would be conferred upon writers, and particularly upon editors! As, however, the use of the hyphen varies within wide limits, in accordance with the radically different rules enforced by editors or publishing houses, from its practical non-use to its employment to connect remote elements into a compound word, there is little hope of securing a uniform system of hyphenization in the construction of bird names. Every observing person knows that many of the current magazines have adopted what may fairly be termed an anti-hyphen fad, this greatly abused but very useful sign being practically tabooed by them as a connective between the