

In this case the birds appear at first to use their wings which often come in violent contact with the glass; this apparently soon teaches them that the use of the wings is both superfluous and painful.

I have not so far observed a Harlequin in the Beaver Dam, though they are not very uncommon on the Arrow Lakes.—J. E. H. KELSO, M. D., Edgewood, Lower Arrow Lake, B. C.

**Bird Catastrophe at Gordon, Nebraska.**—The morning papers of February 20, 1922, carried the news that on the previous night thousands of birds were killed at Gordon, Nebraska, during the blizzard and that no one in the town was able to identify them. I immediately wrote the mayor, Mr. Frank Coates, and asked him to mail me a specimen for identification along with full particulars concerning the storm. He very kindly sent me two specimens. I found them to be Lapland Longspurs (*Calcarius lapponicus lapponicus*). To confirm my verdict I mailed one bird to the Bureau of Biological Survey, and from it received word that my identification was correct. The following information was furnished by the mayor of Gordon.

At six o'clock on the evening of February 19, the temperature was 34 degrees above zero. During the night it stood at 16 degrees above. Early in the evening (Sunday) a sleet fell, followed by a fall of one inch of snow. There was no wind and the snow was evenly distributed. At 10 P. M. the birds were flying against the cluster lights in such numbers that the lights were turned off. Next morning before one store having dim lights fifty-five birds, dead or nearly so, were counted. A conservative estimate as to the number killed was twenty-five to a city block. Thousands were killed in the surrounding country, the morality extending over a territory ranging 200 miles both east and west of Gordon.

'The Auk', volume XXIV, for October 1907 gives an account of a similar tragedy which occurred in Minnesota in 1904.—BESSIE PRICE REED, Lawrence, Kansas.

**Flight Songs and Mating Songs.**—The interesting paper by Mr. Aretas A. Saunders on 'Flight Songs and Mating Songs' in the April number of 'The Auk' brings up several questions. Of the birds that are in the habit of singing from perches, a certain number—possibly more than we know—indulge at times in flight songs which generally differ more or less from the ordinary song. The fact that many birds continue their songs, both ordinary and flight, long after the courtship season, does not, it seems to me, prevent these being true courtship songs. The Robin sings even into August and the Song Sparrow has been known to sing every month of the year. The songs of most birds deteriorate as the season advances.

The full song of the Black and White Warbler, to which Mr. Saunders refers, is in my experiences common during the courtship season, but may