

AN ALBINO CROW.—A rather unusual amount of comment and excitement has followed the advent of an apparently pure white specimen of *Corvus americanus*, which has been repeatedly observed in that part of Chester Valley adjacent to the Valley Forge Hills, during the past autumn and winter seasons. It associates with a goodly number of its sable-coated brethren, all of whom are permanent residents ranging this fertile valley, and are seldom molested by man. Strange as it may appear, this solitary example of albinism seems to enjoy the full confidence of the flock, for it has been seen perched on the topmost branches of an isolated tree in a field, actually doing duty as the sentinel; its white plumage and guttural crow voice, as it warned its feeding comrades of a suspicious move and a possible danger in the road below, excited much wonder in the party that was fortunate enough to be passing at the moment.

This bird was first reported on July 4, 1895, an undoubted bird of the year from a nest by nest. At that time it was not notably wary, but has since become so through the efforts of the "man with a gun;" and an ardent desire to reap a large pecuniary reward through a false notion of the value of this odd plumaged bird after it has been riddled with shot, has placed said man's persistence and woodcraft against the cunning and acuteness of the Crow. May the latter win! Until I hear of its demise, I shall not despair of experiencing the unique pleasure of flushing it from a nest of its own construction, in one of my spring collecting trips over the Forge Hills.

The above is only one of the many examples of the albinistic phase in this species, other records are of not unfrequent occurrence in our rural press. I remember observing one in the midst of a flock that was feeding close to the railroad track at Berwyn, during the winter of '78-'79. In BULLETIN No. 5, another instance is cited by Mr. John A. Bryant, Kansas City, Mo. In every case the albinos appear to enjoy the complete confidence of their kind. That this is not the case in similar occurrences in which the English Sparrow figures, I am sure (see *Oologist*, January, 1896).

In view of the foregoing I cannot forbear reverting to one of the two hypotheses which follows: That *Corvus americanus* is color blind, or that the average intelligence of this species is vastly greater in comparison to that of *Passer domesticus*.—F. L. BURNS, *Berwyn, Penn.*

AN ALBINO BLUE JAY.—On January 3, 1894, about five miles from here I saw a specimen of Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*) almost pure white. Contrasted with the snow on surrounding objects, a slight bluish cast

could be detected on back and head. As I had no gun the bird was not secured, but a good view was had at about fifteen yards distant.—J. N. CLARK, *Meridian, Wis.*

ALBINO AT SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS.—During the summer of 1894, I found albinos among the three following species: Dwarf Cowbird, Black Vulture, and Krider's Hawk. All were unmistakable albinos.—A. H. W. NORTON, *San Antonio, Texas.*

UNUSUAL WINTER BIRDS AT OBERLIN, OHIO.—RED-HEADED WOODPECKER.—Never before during my six years residence in Oberlin, have I found the Red-heads all winter, even in the most favored places. During the past winter (1895-6) there have been from four to twenty individuals in every considerable woods within ten miles of Oberlin. The birds have been very local in their distribution even in the warmer weather, and one had need to visit that part of the woods in which they made their headquarters before being aware of their presence. They never wandered far from one locality, even for food. During the whole winter their notes were so greatly modified that I did not recognize them as belonging to this species, until I had caught the bird in the act of uttering the note. Instead of delighting in lowly perches on the fence or near the ground, as in summer, the birds confined themselves to the tops of the tallest trees in the denser parts of the woods. Taken all together, there was a marked difference in the habits and actions compared with the bird as we know it in summer. I can give no sufficient reason to account for their presence during this winter in particular. Their food has not been more plentiful than usual, nor has the winter been more mild than many other winters. They seem to have forgotten to migrate.

FLICKER.—This is one of the few winters when the Flicker has been present even in limited numbers, during the entire winter. Unlike the Red-head, it has not been confined to the woods—has, indeed, scarcely been in the woods at all, but in the open fields and about town. It has been entirely silent all winter, and for the most part solitary. On February 27 the first call note was heard. During the coldest nights one found a comfortable roosting place behind the water-pipe on the west side of the Library building. Being an inhabitant of the College campus, he probably picked up his living from the streets. He was never heard from until the first of March, when his call note began.

SNOWFLAKE.—During the greater part of February Snowflake was a regular inhabitant of the fields, but so wary that any study of them