

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

except with a strong field-glass was impossible. On February 10, a large flock was seen just outside of Oberlin. A single individual was seen feeding with a flock of Horned Larks on the same day. Nearly every morning during the month birds could be seen flying over the outskirts of the town, but with the first hint of returning spring they were off for the north again. None have been seen or heard since the 27th of February.

HORNED LARK.—The true *alpestris* has been present in considerable numbers during the entire winter, mostly in moderately large flocks. When flushed they have been feeding on the timothy heads which stick up above the snow. The little burrows in the snow where they have passed the night, have been common on the snow covered landscape. Scarcely a morning has passed when they have not been heard flying over town from one feeding place to another. But their real song began on February 27, the day spring opened.—LYNDS JONES, *Oberlin, Ohio*.

THE BARN SWALLOW.—During the spring of 1893, while watching a pair of Barn Swallows, one of them alighted on a perch. It then stretched its neck and seemed to be choking on something for an instant, after which it gave its head a jerk and threw out a pellet. This was repeated three or four times before the bird was frightened away. When it was gone I examined two of the pellets, and found them to be composed almost entirely of the hard wing coverings of very small beetles. I wondered at the time if the bird might have been sick, or whether, like the owl, it was simply ejecting the indigestible parts of its food. The latter seems more probable to me, especially as I found it stated on the authority of De Kay, in "Birds Through an Opera Glass," that the Kingbird is known to eject the hard portions of its food in this way. If any one else has noticed any thing in this line I should like to hear of it.—VIRGINIUS H. CHASE, *Wady Petra, Ill.*

WILSON'S PETREL.—Mr. Lionel F. Bowers, of Columbia, Penn., announces the capture of a female Wilson's Petrel (*Oceanites oceanicus*) on August 29, 1893. He states that the specimen has been identified, but the record has never been published. This bird was found on the streets of Columbia, by a Mr. Kauffman, who presented it to Mr. Bowers. There had been a heavy snow, with the wind from the south-east for several days. The bird was almost dead when found.—LYNDS JONES.