

and fails to protect and encourage those about his premises, falls short of his duty ; and if his cabinet contains bird skins or egg shells which might just as well have remained where Nature placed them, he is inconsistent, demanding that others abstain that he may indulge.

For fear of starting an egg collecting craze, I have always been reluctant to open my egg cabinet to boys, well knowing my inability to explain to their entire satisfaction just why I should rob nests and they should not ; any more than certain well known ornithologists can clear themselves from the imputation of cruelty when destroying well-nigh exterminated species in the breeding season and leaving the young to rot in embryo or die a slow death by starvation.

In conclusion I would say that when an oologist constantly keeps in mind and acts under the assumption that the birds are his best friends and not his deadly enemies, he cannot go far wrong, and the means he employs will be justified in the light of subsequent study and research of data and specimens. If any of us fall short in this we have only ourselves to blame. Let us then collect with moderation and fewer eggs and more notes be the order of the day.

FRANK L. BURNS, *Berwyn, Penna.*

GENERAL NOTES.

NOTES FROM NEW AUBURN, MINN.—January 15, while walking along the shore of a lake and through two patches of woods, I saw eight Chickadees, six White-breasted Nuthatches, three Downy Woodpeckers, and about twenty-two Redpolls. The thermometer registered 41° above zero. From January 29 to February 12 the mercury was not above zero, and every morning found it from 12 to 32 degrees below. There was a flock of twelve to fifteen Snowflakes that fed regularly in one of the fields during that time. February 12 a flock of about 100 or 125 Snowflakes settled for a short time in a field and then moved on towards the south-west. The thermometer stood at 10° above at the time.

G. M. BURDICK, *New Auburn, Minn.*

BIRDS IN A SNOW-STORM.—During and after a recent snow-storm, when the ground was covered with several inches of soft snow, Robins, Meadowlarks and the blackbirds gleaned for food in the ditches and "dead furrows" in the fields where the water had melted the snow. They seemed to be as much at home in the shallow water as the true

waders, and just as cheerful. The Crows were able to scratch the snow aside and search out the grain in the fields. An inundated field, where weeds and grasses had been allowed to grow in bewildering confusion, afforded a brimming larder for Goldfinches, Tree Sparrows and Song Sparrows. Here they, too, were soon obliged to lift the soaked grass heads from the water, before their hunger could be satisfied. The dainty dress of the Goldfinch seemed very much out of place down among the rotting vegetation.

LYNDS JONES, *Oberlin, Ohio.*

BRÜNNICH'S MURRE, *URIA LOMVIA* IN LORAIN COUNTY, OHIO.

It gives me great pleasure to announce a hitherto overlooked Lorain County record for this species. Mr. A. Hengartner, of Lorain, Ohio, informs me that on December 25, 1896, while passing along the lake shore some two miles west of Lorain, he came upon a company of six of these birds. Three were shot and one, which was some distance in from the water on the beach, was captured alive. The other two escaped. Of the four specimens captured, one is in the collection of the Lorain High School, and one has been presented to the Oberlin College Museum by Mr. Hengartner. The writer believes that this company of six individuals is the largest one on record for the 1896 inland flight of this maritime species.

LYNDS JONES, *Oberlin, Ohio.*

NOTES FOR THE COMMITTEE ON VARIATION.

It would be a great favor if members who are willing to contribute to the work of the Committee on Variation would send in their names at an early date with some indication of the amount of song sparrow material at their disposal.

Measurements and examinations of even only one race are of value, for with the methods to be employed it is necessary to have a large number of specimens studied. In the co-operative method of study a member with only a few specimens can do work of value by reporting on what he does have. It is desirable to have material as widely repre-