

It is also true that in most sections of the country there has been a dearth of bird life in general which has caused universal remark. Speaking for northern Ohio, I have been unable to discover any unusual food conditions which might explain the appearance of the owls or the scarcity of other birds. No doubt the influx of owls was but an unusually marked symptom of a similar southward movement of practically all birds which habitually spend the winter months in ice bound parts of the country. If all indications are not deceptive on this point we shall have to look again for the explanation of these southward flights. It is interesting to notice that these southward flights of the Snowy Owl, the Hawk Owl, the Pine Grosbeak, the Redpoll, and the White-winged Crossbill, not to prolong the list, do not seem to have any connection with each other. In other words, the influences which seem to be acting upon one of these species to bring about a southward winter movement many not affect the others at all. Reports from southern Ontario indicate that there has been no unusual movement of the owls there the past winter, while at places a hundred or more miles south of Ontario the number of specimens captured and seen was sufficient to cause general remark. Were the conditions in northern Ontario, or even farther north, particularly unfavorable for passing the winter, or were the central districts into which the birds passed unusually favorable, or were both of these influences combined? It is an enticing subject for practical field work. Its solution is entirely possible.

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### GENERAL NOTES.

A VULTURE PIE.—Of all the gastronomic stunts performed, the record was completely shattered in this county last summer. A resident of Atglen, possessing much better marksmanship than judgment, and no respect at all for some of the laws of the commonwealth, came into town with a mixed bunch of birds, the largest a specimen of the Turkey Vulture. Being utterly worthless to him he very kindly (?) presented them to an Italian working on the "Low Grade Freight Line." The dago proudly carried the string to his boarding house shanty. The Vulture, being the largest, was naturally considered the prize, so it was cleaned, and stuffed with plenty of garlic, and the entire household proceeded to make a meal of it; with the result that all were made deathly sick. The next day one of the participants gravely observed to the donor: "Big bird no good!" He didn't seem to appreciate his blessings!

FRANK L. BURNS, Berwyn, Pa.

RED-THROATED LOON AT GRASSY SOUND, N. J.—A most interesting New Jersey record is that of a Red-throated Loon (*Urinator lum-*

*me*), June 15, 1904, at Grassy Sound. It was shot, after diving and dodging several bullets, by a Mr. Stanart, a local gunner of that place, and secured by Mr. C. N. Cass, to whom I am indebted for the skin. Mr. Cass removed the skin the same day the bird was shot, fearing it would spoil. Unfortunately the body was not sexed. As far as known this is the latest summer date for Southern New Jersey, where the species occurs rarely.

FRANK L. BURNS, Berwyn, Pa.

THE OPENING OF THE 1906 SPRING MIGRATION AT OBERLIN, O.—Following an almost record-breaking winter for both temperature and for snowfall, the spring migration opened in February with the appearance of migrating individuals of Robin, Bluebird, Meadowlark, Killdeer, Bronzed Grackle and Canada Goose. There was a slight increase in the number of individuals of each species except Killdeer and Canada Goose, which culminated on the 24th, when Robins, Bluebirds, Meadowlarks and Grackles were fairly common, and Red-winged Blackbirds arrived. The cold wave which began on the 5th checked any further advance, and reduced most of the birds to winter conditions again. On the 26th geese were seen returning southward. Neither frogs nor salamanders were heard piping, but some insects came out. This is the earliest wave of migration which has been recorded for Oberlin. LYNDY JONES.

HERMIT THRUSH IN WINTER.—On December 8, 1905, while working through the woods near the head of Belle Isle, Detroit river, I met with a bird of this species. This bird was evidently in good condition, and during the time that I watched him, was tripping over the dead leaves in a very lively fashion. He was not at all shy, in fact was much less so than the species generally is. The day was a pleasant, bright one, but during the week before (Nov. 29-Dec. 4) we had the most severe weather of the winter, the temperature falling as low as 17° on the 30th, with about an inch of snow on the ground on Dec. 2. This is the first record known to me of the occurrence of this species here in winter.

BRADSHAW H. SWALES, Detroit, Mich.