

THE WILSON BULLETIN

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Edited by LYNDS JONES.

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Editorial

We are pleased to note that the revised edition of Mr. Frank M. Chapman's "Handbook of the Birds of Eastern North America" is ready for distribution. It is undoubtedly true that the first edition of this unexcelled book has exerted a greater influence than any other book upon the people of this country and therefore is the direct cause of the awakened public interest in birds. The enlargement and improvement of the present edition should continue this good work.

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What has happened to the Robins and Bluebirds? While there are still many Robins throughout the country, it is clear that there are fewer than usual. Bluebirds are still present, but in such diminished numbers that it is common remark that there are almost none. Robins in large numbers spent the excessively cold winter in the south-

ern and eastern parts of Ohio, and it was stated in local papers that many were frozen or starved to death during the latter part of March. It seems probable that a like fate overtook many of the Bluebirds.

The cold winter, followed by a late spring in the central districts and the promise of a cool summer, are likely to result in a temporary pushing south of the breeding ranges of birds in the lower lake region where there appears to be some instability as to certain breeding birds. At the present writing (June 5) Olive-backed Thrushes are still present and singing at Oberlin—an unprecedentedly late date. It is not likely that this species will breed here even this summer, but it may be indicative of an inclination on the part of birds like the White-throated Sparrow, Black-throated Green Warbler, Black-poll Warbler, and others to remain to breed, contrary to their usual custom. A careful scrutiny of the summer fauna will not be amiss in any region.

The paper dealing with the detailed study of a Brown Thrasher's nest, the first article in this number, is another of the carefully worked out studies of that part of the life history of a species which is greatly needed in our intimate studies of the birds as a means of a thorough understanding of their place in nature. It is needless to say that the paper represents an amount of painstaking work which no one who has not undertaken something of the kind can begin to appreciate. It may be objected that the printing of the details of each of the 775 visits of the parents to the young is uncalled for; but we would remind the possible objector that this is **pioneer work** and details are necessary for the laying of a sure foundation for the **further work** which we earnestly hope may follow this work.