

students, resulting in far better protection of our native birds. A clearer conception of the relations existing between the migrations of the birds and other natural phenomena. In short, it has been a year full of profit.

LYNDS JONES, *Oberlin, Ohio.*

A SHORTEST-DAY-OF-THE-YEAR HORIZON.

December 22nd of this winter completed in this locality a week of south winds and thawing weather. The snow having vanished, except for fence-row drifts, the walking was very heavy in most places. Occasional spatters of rain all day long, detracted only a little from the pleasures of a tramp which Professor Jones and I made to lake Erie, via Chance creek. The course to be traversed called for twenty-one miles on foot with a return in the evening "on the electrics."

The Professor had set his heart on finding a Red-breasted Nuthatch in the Chance creek gorge—and so we did, just one, in company with W. B's. (as we called the White-breasted Nuthatches, for short) and Brown Creepers. He was evidently established for the winter and right glad we were to find him; for this is the first winter record for the county.

While we were beating through a copse near the top of the bank I was suddenly rooted to the spot by that sweetest note in any language, "*Cheery, cheery!*" When I could recover my breath I shouted, "Jones, there's a Bluebird!" And immediately from the top of a tree, hard by, there floated down the delicious strains of a Bluebird's spring song. Scarcely could I restrain the impulse to fall on my knees, so like a heavenly messenger it seemed. It was indeed a Bluebird, dropped down out of the sky on the shortest day of winter. The first note we heard a little to the north of us, while the bird was on the wing, and he passed off into the murky south, flying high. It was perhaps a laggard from the north; but if this be true, its song was all the more remarkable, for it sang incessantly during the minute it stayed upon the tree. On the other hand, it might have been lured north by the mild weather, but struck with sudden misgiving at sight of the chilly lake a few miles further on. At any rate we respectfully submit it as either the latest "fall" or earliest "spring" record for this vicinity.

Red-headed Woodpeckers appeared in another wood some three miles south of the lake. I say "another" because we had already found

seventeen individuals this winter, in a wood just out of Oberlin. It is altogether inexplicable why they should have chosen this particular season in which to brave the climate, for the winter came on with early and unmistakable warning.

The following birds comprise the day's horizon—twenty-two species in all :

Bob-whites.	Bald Eagles.
Sparrow Hawk.	Horned Larks, 6.
Pigeon Hawk.	Goldfinches.
Barred Owl.	Song Sparrows.
Hairy Woodpeckers.	Tree Sparrows.
Downy Woodpeckers.	Tufted Titmice.
Red-headed Woodpeckers.	White-breasted Nuthatches.
Red-bellied Woodpeckers.	Red-breasted Nuthatch.
Flickers.	Chickadees.
Crows, 3.	Brown Creepers.
Blue Jays, 20.	Bluebird.

W. L. DAWSON, *Oberlin, Ohio.*

DECEMBER HORIZONS.

GLEN ELLYN, ILLINOIS.

NORTHERN SHRIKE.—Not infrequently seen during the month.

TREE SPARROW.—Not uncommon in the woods.

DOWNY WOODPECKER.—Met with in woods.

HAIRY WOODPECKER.—Met with in woods.

AMERICAN ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK.—Seen several times soaring overhead.

WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH.—Not uncommon.

AMERICAN CROW.—December 11. 108 Crows in two battalions of about fifty birds each going north-west at 3:15 P. M. This latter, however, is an every day occurrence during the winter roosting season of the Crow. In the early forenoon they pass over the village in a south-easterly direction, but in smaller companies, of from four to six individuals and upwards, and even single birds. There is said to be a small roost east of Elgin, fifteen miles north-west from here.

BLUE JAY.—Always in evidence.

HORNED LARK.—Occasionally seen in the fields.



Dawson, William Leon. 1899. "A Shortest-Day-of-the-Year Horizon." *The Wilson bulletin* 11(4), 4-5.

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