

flock of Starlings was noticed. From that time until the present writing I have seen no Starlings in this section. During the cold spell they were also taken near Richmond, Va.—HAROLD H. BAILEY, *Newport News, Virginia*.

The Evening Grosbeak in Wisconsin.—On October 21, 1912, my mother, entering her poultry yard to feed her flock, found an adult female Evening Grosbeak (*Hesperiphona vespertina vespertina*) lying dead on the ground. On skinning the bird for my collection I found it to be in good condition of flesh, with a few moult feathers on head and neck, but could find no trace of any injury sustained, nor discover any clew whatever as to the cause of its death. I had previously seen none others here this season, and at the present date, December 16, it is my only record for 1912.—W. E. SNYDER, *Beaver Dam, Wis.*

The Snow Bunting (*Plectrophenax nivalis nivalis*) in Chicago and Vicinity during the Fall and Winter of 1912.—On account of the irregular occurrence of this bird so far south, the following records, showing its status in Chicago and vicinity, as I have observed it during the fall and winter of 1912, may be of interest. It is the more interesting because 'Bird-Lore's' Christmas census for 1912 (Bird-Lore 15:20-45. 1913) seems to indicate an absence of boreal species in the Middle States, the Snow Bunting not being recorded outside of Canada, except in the eastern states of Vermont, Massachusetts and New York.

October 23 one was seen about the beach at Jackson Park. This bird arrived three days earlier than any previously reported from this region (W. W. Cooke, 'The Migration of North American Sparrows.' Bird-Lore 15:17. 1913). October 24 there were two in the same locality. November 2 twelve were seen feeding on grass seed on the beach at Lincoln Park. November 30 two were seen flying along the beach at Miller, Indiana. December 20, ten were seen about the rocks forming the breakwater where land was being filled in at Lincoln Park. Frequent excursions after December 20 failed to reveal any more of the birds, and they probably migrated still farther south.

All the birds observed were tame, allowing a close approach, thus making their identification a very easy matter.—EDWIN D. HULL, *Chicago, Illinois*.

A Strange Sparrow Roost.—Early in the fall of 1912 the European Sparrows in the City of Utica, N. Y., established a roost in the tops of the elms in the yard of a church in the most busy part of the City. At dusk every evening they assembled to the number of several hundred to spend the night in these unprotected trees. Early in January, Mr. James O. Roberts, a young observer called my attention to the fact that there were some strange birds among the sparrows, and after some difficulty in identification it was discovered that they consisted of a Starling (*Sturnus*

vulgaris) — a new record for central New York — and a number of Cowbirds (*Molothrus ater ater*); as many as ten being seen at one time. These are strange birds for mid winter in this locality. The winter had been very mild up to this date and there was very little snow at the time.— EGBERT BAGG, *Utica, N. Y.*

Towhee in Winter near Steubenville, Ohio.— While taking an all day walk on December 26 I was surprised to find a flock of from fifteen to twenty Towhees (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*). There were both males and females in the flock. There were several inches of snow on the ground with the thermometer at about 60° F., and a strong sun. As this is a late date for this species I thought it worth reporting. The birds were seen three or four miles south of this city on the West Virginia shore.— KENYON ROPER, *Steubenville, Ohio.*

Barn Swallow in South Carolina in Winter.— The Barn Swallow (*Hirundo erythrogaster*) is an abundant migrant in the coast region of South Carolina, occurring regularly through the middle of October. Mr. Arthur T. Wayne (*Birds of South Carolina*, p. 139) says, "a belated specimen was observed on Oct. 29, 1906." On Dec. 17, 1912, while passing through the Navy Yard at Charleston, S. C., I had a glimpse of a Swallow which I recognized at once as belonging to this species. Hoping to get a closer view, I waited. The bird soon reappeared and passed low over my head several times, showing distinctly its color and its deeply forked tail. The correctness of the identification is, therefore, beyond question. As the use of firearms is prohibited within the limits of the Navy Yard, I was not prepared to secure the specimen.— FRANCIS M. WESTON, JR., *Charleston, S. C.*

Notes on the Loggerhead Shrike at Barachias, Montgomery Co., Ala.— On Jan. 10, 1912, the men felled a tree in the grove and in sawing it into three foot lengths turned out quite a number of large, white, blue-bellied grubs. Most of these were placed upon one of the 'cuts' but a few were left upon the ground and soon attracted the attention of a Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus ludovicianus*). I seated myself beside the stump only six feet from the grubs on the ground, but the Shrike came and fearlessly removed them, one by one, paying little attention to my presence, so I decided to try a photograph. Securing my camera I focused it at six feet upon the grubs on one of the 'cuts,' while I sat upon another, but soon I had worked the instrument up within eighteen inches of them and still the Shrike came with very little hesitation and removed the very last one, regardless of the click of the shutter, while I still sat there. The grubs were impaled upon the thorns of several different trees. After hastily snatching one the Shrike nearly always alighted upon some nearby branch to get a firmer grip upon the grub before flying away to impale it.

Jan. 16, 1912, everything was frozen hard and the bright sun did not



1913. "A Strange Sparrow Roost." *The Auk* 30, 275–276.

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