

fectly white tail, with some white about the head; on making a post mortem I discovered through a rent in the intestines a tape-worm about 20 feet in length. Did not wonder then that his head was gray. A few years after a partially white Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phœniceus*) was taken, which also contained two or three tænia; next a partial albino Mallard; then a Robin (*Turdus migratorius*) with a white head and mottled back and breast. All were mounted, and are now in my collection. Each of these had two or more tape-worms in their intestines. I am aware that birds, especially some species, are particularly obnoxious to tape-worms, and the above may have been merely coincidences; still it has been observed sufficiently often to make the fact suspicious as a cause of albinism.—G. A. M'CALLUM, *Dunnville, Ont.*

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## CORRESPONDENCE.

*[Correspondents are requested to write briefly and to the point. No attention will be paid to anonymous communications.]*

TO THE EDITORS OF THE AUK:—

*Sirs:* I see by the last number of 'The Auk' that the Committee on Nomenclature is undecided whether to adopt the name 'Junco' or 'Snowbird' as the vernacular name of *Junco hiemalis*. The bird in question is here, and in many other parts of its range, not a 'Snowbird' at all, as it almost invariably leaves for the South before there is any snow, and does not return till the ground is completely clear. I think this should be sufficient to decide the question in favor of 'Junco,' as in my opinion a bird should always bear a name which is applicable to it in every part of its range.

The same argument applies with equal or still greater force to the name 'Winter Wren.' *Anorthura troglodytes hiemalis* spends the summer in the hills near here, but is *never* found here during the cold weather; and people here have frequently remarked on the absurdity of our having to call an essentially summer bird the 'Winter Wren.' It may be urged that we have no choice in the matter, as there is no other name for the bird; but why cannot some descriptive name, such as 'Short-tailed Wren,' be invented. Many will doubtless say that the old name is too well established to admit of its removal; but the Committee has, I understand, in some instances made changes even more radical than this, and on no stronger ground; and it does seem a pity, when a thorough and final revision of the nomenclature is in progress, to allow a misnomer like 'Winter Wren' to stand. For surely a name must be considered a misnomer which is inapplicable in a bird's summer home—the place where by far the most important part of its life's drama is enacted.

Ottawa, November 19, 1884.

W. L. SCOTT