

Troglodytes ædon.	Zonotrichia albicollis.
Empidonax minimus.	Zonotrichia leucophrys.
Galeoscoptes carolinensis.	Seiurus aurocapillus.
Merula migratoria.	Vireo olivaceus.
Turdus ustulatus swainsonii.	Seiurus noveboracensis.
Geothlypis trichas.	Tachycineta bicolor.
Geothlypis philadelphia (♀).	Anthus ludovicianus.
Harporynchus rufus.	Mniotilta varia.

It is hardly necessary to state that many of the above species are commonly found on the ground, but all of these birds were profoundly affected by the weather, allowing an approach which would be next to impossible under ordinary conditions. The Warblers could easily have been taken in a small hand net.—JOSEPH L. HANCOCK, *Chicago, Illinois.*

Reason or Instinct?—I made some observations last summer on the habits of the Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*) which, if not showing reason, certainly show a degree of sympathy and kindness worthy of imitation by animals of a higher order. Last August (1887) on an old farm in Jefferson County, Wisconsin, my attention was attracted by the notes of a Blue Jay, not the ordinary cry, which could be heard at almost any time, as they are very numerous there, but a series of regular calls followed by answers from a neighboring tree. There was something so peculiarly suggestive of a communication of thought about the sound, that I went to the place, and saw an old Blue Jay perched on a fence some distance from a tree where there were several others.

On my nearing the bird, the calls from the tree became more frequent and loud, changing from a low, pleasant, communicative tone to a shrill alarm which became more frequent and intense as I approached. Thinking that he must be injured in some way, I went cautiously up to him when I found that he was at least partially blind. The eyes were blurred and dim, and the lids nearly closed. I had little difficulty in catching him and found him to be an old and helpless creature with scarcely a vestige of his former beauty. The beautiful blue feathers were much faded, in fact, the general appearance of the bird was so different as to be apparent at a glance. The claws were very much worn, the bill dulled, and the primaries and tail-feathers ragged. Every feature suggested old age and feebleness. Yet he was cared for and watched as tenderly as was ever a young bird in the nest. No sooner had I caught him than there were at least a dozen Jays close at hand, whose sympathy and interest were manifested as plainly as could be without words. After a thorough examination, I liberated him, when he flew in the direction of the sound of the others but did not succeed in alighting among the smaller branches of the tree and finally settled on a large limb near the ground. I saw him every day after that (from August 10 to August 17), and never did his companions desert him; some one of them being always near and warning him of approaching danger; whereupon he would fly in the direction indicated by the

sound of their voices. They guided him regularly to a spring near by where I saw him bathe daily, always, however, with some of his companions close by. They not only watched and guided him but they fed him. I had noticed some days previously some Jays carrying food, and thought it strange at that season, as there were no young then to feed, but found afterwards, to my surprise and pleasure, that the poor old blind bird was being fed by those whom he could no longer see.

About a week after first noticing this bird I was compelled on account of sickness in the family to relinquish my observations. There is no doubt whatever that the bird was an old one. The young of the year are easily recognized, not alone by their plumage but by their peculiar teasing, whining notes, unmistakable to anyone familiar with the species.—FRITHOF KUMLIEN, *Milwaukee, Wis.*

[My attention has just been called by my friend Prof. G. W. Peckham to some notes in Darwin's 'Descent of Man,' 1875, pp. 102, 103. The existence of these observations was entirely unknown to my brother (the writer of the above, now recently deceased) or to me at the time his notes were made. I quote from Darwin, p. 102: "Capt. Stansbury found on a salt lake in Utah an old and completely blind pelican, which was very fat, and must have been well fed for a long time by his companions."* Also foot-note on same page: "Capt. Stansbury also gives an interesting account of the manner in which a very young pelican, carried away by a strong stream, was guided and encouraged in its attempts to reach the shore by half a dozen birds." Darwin adds: "Mr. Blyth, as he informs me, saw Indian crows feeding two or three of their companions which were blind."—LUDWIG KUMLIEN, *Milwaukee, Wis.*]

Notes on the Nomenclature of the Muscles of Volation in Birds' Wings.—Mr. Allen's interesting paper† calls up some points regarding the names of the 18 muscles of the antebrachium and manus of the bird. It may be safely assumed that these represent the usual or normal musculature of the parts, though I should be far from presuming that no additional ones, or no different specializations of these, occur in the class *Aves*. They have been named from time to time, by different persons, upon no system whatever, like most other anatomical structures. It may not be easy to refer the highly specialized musculature of the wing in detail to any system based upon the state of the parts in *Homo sapiens*, but I am able to indicate some of the homologies concerned with the muscles of the human forearm and hand. These I will note, according to the system of neuromyology of Coues and Shute.‡ I take them up in the order in which they are presented by Mr. Allen.

1. 'Flexor carpi ulnaris.' A muscle which has "its origin at the internal condyle of the humerus, and its insertion on the ulna at the wrist" is

* See H. Stansbury, 'Exploration and Survey of the Valley of the Great Salt Lake of Utah, &c.' Phila., 1852, p. 193.—ED.

† See this number of *The Auk*, p. 418.

‡ *N. Y. Medical Record*, XXXII, 1887, pp 93-98, 122-126.