

The Red-headed Woodpecker near Chicago, Ill.—I do not think that the Red-headed Woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*) is as rare a winter resident in the vicinity of Chicago as Mr. Bryan seems to suppose (see *Auk*, XVI, July, 1899, p. 272). Years ago, when living in Racine, Wis., I remember seeing individuals of the species during several winters. They remained through the season. This was near the town, on the Lake shore, sixty miles north of Chicago. They were never at all numerous, nor was every successive year marked by their appearance. One, or perhaps two, might be seen on the coldest days. The severity of the weather made no difference. The birds were quite as likely to remain through the hardest winters as through mild and open ones. 'Birds of Michigan,' by A. J. Cook, speaks of the Red-headed Woodpecker as occasional in winter. The *Geology of Wisconsin*, Section Ornithology, if I remember rightly, says about the same thing.

I hope this handsome Woodpecker, the most showy of North American birds, is not diminishing in numbers. It used to be fairly abundant in New England, for instance, but now it is a rare visitant excepting, perhaps, in the remotest parts.—G. S. MEAD, *San Francisco, Cal.*

Tree Swallows by the Million.—Early in September I visited the Long Beach Club at Barnegat, N. J. This club is located on that long, narrow point of land which lies between the ocean and Barnegat Bay. It is about ten miles in length and the club is located two miles from the extreme point. The width of the land here between the bay and ocean is only a few hundred feet. While there I was attracted by an extraordinary flight of Tree Swallows (*Tachycineta bicolor*) which commenced about eight o'clock each morning and lasted several hours, the birds flying always up the beach toward the inlet and never in the opposite direction. Evidently they crossed the channel and returned later in the day along the opposite shore of the bay to their night quarters. My interest in this daily flight was greatly aroused by the enormous numbers of the birds. My stay lasted but a few days, but on the 19th I again visited the club and on the morning of the 20th watched for the birds, hoping to see them again. Not a Swallow was seen until the solid column of the flight appeared, and it was at once apparent that where there were hundreds two weeks previous there were now thousands. The flight was compact like a swarm of bees and at times almost darkened the sky. Most of the time there were two distinct columns, one flying low just over the water, and the other high up in the air. I watched the flight for hours, and the air in both directions seemed alive with them as far as the eye could reach. In attempting to shoot one for identification and mounting, a single discharge of my gun killed ten birds, so compact was the flight. Two of these (evidently adult males) were in magnificent plumage, their backs fairly glistening with the most brilliant steel-blue color. Three or four others showed some color, and the rest (probably young birds) none at all. The next day I again watched the flight in company with my companion

the Hon. Clarence Lexow, of New York. A northeast gale was blowing against which the birds were flying with much difficulty. A heavy rain soon set in and the wind blew furiously, still the flight continued and it was rarely that the chain was broken, even for a few seconds. The appearance of a Sparrow Hawk among them had the effect of causing the birds to rise to a great height, but the flight was in no respect retarded. After watching the birds nearly all of the forenoon we made a careful estimate of the number that had passed and we calculated that it was not to be reckoned by tens of thousands or hundreds of thousands, but by millions.—JOHN LEWIS CHILDS, *Floral Park, N. Y.*

Intelligence of the Shrike.—When studying birds in Florida last year, I took a shot at a fine specimen of the Southern Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*) for the purpose of adding him to my collection. The bird flew a considerable distance, wounded, and attempted to light in the branches of a tree, but was unable to do so and fell to the ground. As I approached to pick him up, he arose from the ground, issued a cry of distress and fluttered away with great difficulty. Immediately another Butcher-bird darted out from some near-by tree, flew to its wounded companion, circled about him and underneath him, buoying him up as he was about to sink to the ground. These tactics were repeated continually, the birds rising higher and flying further away until they had gone nearly out of sight and safely lodged in the top of a tall pine. I did not pursue the bird further, feeling that such devotion and intelligent assistance on the part of the second bird was worthy of success. In all my observations of birds I never before, or since, witnessed such an interesting exhibition.—JOHN LEWIS CHILDS, *Floral Park, N. Y.*

The Bohemian Waxwing in Onondaga County, N. Y.—During the hard snow storm of Feb. 10, 1899, a flock of about 50 Cedar Waxwings were seen in a mountain ash tree, feeding on the berries. The tree is on one of the principal residence streets of Syracuse, and is thickly populated. The observer, being an amateur collector, and living but a few houses from the place, returned for his gun and shot into the flock, securing several Cedar Waxwings, and one, which was seen to drop some distance from the tree, proved to be a Bohemian Waxwing (*Ampelis garrulus*). This is the first specimen recorded from Onondaga County. It seems strange that this bird should be associated with its brother species.

I would like to know if it has been taken or recorded farther south than Syracuse, and whether these two species are in the habit of flocking together?—A. W. PERRIOR, *Syracuse, N. Y.*

Date of Discovery and Type Locality of the Mountain Mockingbird.—The formal description* of *Orpheus montanus* in Townsend's Narr., 1839, App. p. 338, states that the bird "inhabits the banks of the Platte River, west of the Rocky Mountains." This is impossible, as there is no Platte