

tion would seem to be that the part had become bent in this manner, perhaps through some accident, while the bird was in the early nestling stage and its bill soft and pliable. But again it may be possible that the condition arose as a developmental abnormality in some pre-hatching stage.

The bird was in good condition of flesh, and one can hardly help marveling just a little that it had been able to maintain an existence, not only so well but at all, with what would appear at least to be a rather severe handicap.—CHARLES E. JOHNSON, *Roosevelt Wild Life Forest Exper. Station, N. Y. State College of Forestry, Syracuse.*

**Red-winged Blackbirds Wintering in Ohio.**—About the Lily Pond in the Shaker Lakes Park in Cleveland, Ohio, there is a considerable growth of cat-tails, affording a popular haunt of Red-winged Blackbirds (*Agelaius phoeniceus phoeniceus*). The last flock of Blackbirds left the pond in the second week of November, 1928, but on the 18th, and on nearly every subsequent visit, I found two of the birds. These were evidently females, since both were heavily streaked above and below and had a light, buffy line over the eye. I saw the birds last on January 26, 1929. My next visit to the park, two weeks later, came after a succession of days with the temperature consistently below the average for the season with several heavy snow-falls, and this circumstance probably sent them out in search of food or a warmer climate.

It might be of interest to compare this notation with the records of Red-wings in the 'Bird-Lore' Christmas Census for 1927 and 1928 in the northern states east of the Mississippi. In 1927 a total of 10 stations of 131 reporting listed these birds, while in 1928 the number had increased to 17 out of 127 stations. In each year the season immediately preceding had been reported as unusually warm and moist throughout most of the region.—WILLIAM H. WATTERSON, *Cleveland, Ohio.*

**Snow Buntings Taking Insect Food.**—On February 17, 1929 at Auburn, Geauga County, Ohio, I observed a flock of about 85 Snow Buntings (*Plectrophenax nivalis nivalis*) feeding on a stretch of bare snow in a field. Inspection revealed that the surface of the snow was well dotted with snow fleas (*Collembola*), the day being warm and suited to the habits of this insect, and I am sure that the birds were finding them a welcome addition to their regular seed diet. There had been a snow-fall a few hours before of sufficient volume to cover any seeds which might have blown onto the surface of the snow, which was level and entirely free from plants here. It is interesting to note that the Buntings, when flushed, flew to the top branches of a tall chestnut tree nearby.

From the various sources which I have consulted I find that the food of the Snow Bunting is considered by many to be entirely vegetable, while of those which mention animal food, none includes this rather obvious type. It would seem that snow fleas should provide an abundant supply of insect food in the late weeks of this bird's visit to the eastern United States.—WILLIAM H. WATTERSON, *Cleveland, Ohio.*