ping their wings and twitching their tails, which attracted the attention of another Thrasher and a pair of Catbirds (*Dumatella carolinensis*) which came to their aid in defense of the young. The new comers joined in with the parents both vocally and physically until I left the lot.

In an early May morning in 1930 in a quiet garden, the parents of a young Robin (*Planesticus migratorius migratorius*) were teaching it how to fly. Suddenly a neighbor's cat slipped over the fence, caught the young Robin and started for home. The parents in their frantic effort to make the cat release the bird, attracted the attention of another Robin and a pair of Cardinals (*Cardinalis cardinalis cardinalis*) nesting nearby in a honeysuckle. All five birds jumped on the cat's back, screaming and pecking it so vigorously that it released the young Robin and returned home. The Robins left the garden but throughout the day at sight of the cat the Cardinals screamed and flew at her.

For four or five years a pair of Blue Jays (*Cyanocitta cristata cristata*) has nested in our yard. Even after the young are grown, at the approach of a cat, dog or person, at least five Blue Jays appear screaming and, in all cases except one, the screaming put the intruder to rout and in this case the cat was attacked by pecking and soon fled.—Myra Katie Roads, *Hillsboro, Ohio.*

Bird Injured by High Tension Wire.—I had long adhered to the belief that a bird is not subject to danger of eloctrocution or ignition by perching on a high tension wire, except contact be made with one wire and the ground or two wires. Due to the manner in which such wires are commonly placed this would amount to almost an impossibility. A unique exception to this belief occurred in the following incident.

It was not my privilege to be present to observe personally the details of the casualty, hence, they were collected from reliable spectators, and are related with slight mutation as obtained.

A high tension wire, carrying 23,000 volts passes through the village of Franklin Square, Ohio. The wires are, as usual, frequently utilized for perches by birds.

On August 23, 1930 a report which was audible for some distance was heard by the residents of Franklin Square, a number of whom immediately gathered about the place of its source. Up to a few moments after its fall, fire could be seen emanating from one end of the high tension wire which had broken and fallen to the ground.

The line-men which had been summoned to the scene soon appeared. A badly burnt bird which had been previously noted hopping about in the grass nearby (about fifteen feet from directly beneath where the wire broke) was then captured by the men and pronounced a Flicker. From information obtained, however, I suspect it to have been a Robin. Performing an act of mercy as they claimed the bird was killed and taken away, and, thus, was not available for unquestionable identification.

The plumage had been almost completely consumed by fire, the only

remaining portion was the quills and rachis of the contour feathers, all down as well as the webs of the contour feathers were burned.

With a desire of obtaining an explanation of the cause and probable frequency of an occurrence of this nature a competent Cleveland electrician was consulted. I am indebted to him for the following analysis, and can do no better than to quote from his recent reply to my inquiry.

"Will say that a similar incident may have never occurred before, and may not again.

"In my opinion the bird did not get shorted across the wires or grounded with same or it would have been killed. It probably was sitting on the wire very near where same broke, and was in the path of the arc which was caused by the breaking of the path of the flow of electricity.

"The break in the wire was caused by a flaw or injury to same, and probably would have broken even if the bird did not alight on it. An arc is due to the flow of current being broken when carrying a high voltage and amperage and may be from a fraction of an inch up to several feet, similar to a flash of lightning, which forms a high heat unit."—PAUL A. STEWART, *Leetonia, Ohio.*

Original Publication of Chionophilos alpestris insularis.—The Horned Lark which inhabits the islands of Santa Cruz, San Clemente, etc. off the Californian coast, recognized first by Dr. C. H. Townsend to be a separate race, has been known by the name *Otocoris alpestris insularis* Townsend, dating from September 9, 1890, when Townsend's description was published (Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., XIII, p. 140). The late Dr. Jonathan Dwight published a review of the Horned Larks (Auk, VII, pp. 138–158, April, 1890). On page 152 (in text) Dr. Dwight says: "Mr. C. H. Townsend has kindly loaned me a series of ten male Horned Larks from the Santa Cruz group of Islands, California, including the type of the bird which he calls *insularis*. I am much surprised to find his birds practically indistinguishable from Orelogon specimens of *strigata*. They are the same size and though averaging a little darker, the nape approaching brick red, some of them can be matched by the few specimens of *strigata*, I have for comparison, etc." This constituting a dragnosis, and being the earliest use of the name *insularis*, the name should now be: *Chionophilos alpestris insularis* (Dwight). The original citation is: [*Otocoris alpestris*] *insularis* (Townsend Ms.) Dwight, Auk, VII, p. 152 (in text), April, 1890—"Santa Cruz group of Islands, California"; the type in the U. S. National Museum is from San Clemente Island (fide Townsend). The generic name *Chionophilos* Brehm, 1832, has priority over *Otocoris* Bonaparte, 1838 (cf. Laubmann, Verh. Orn. Ges. Bayern, *15*, p. 222, 1922).—C. ELIOT UNDERDOWN, *Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, Ill.*

[While *Otocoris a. insularis*, as mentioned by Mr. Underdown, actually first appeared in Dr. Dwight's paper, the fact should be noted that the species was described by Dr. Townsend, and it was only due to a delay in the publication of his paper that the name first appeared elsewhere. Dr.