were all within 30 yards of the shore and were readily observed for fifteen minutes. Closer to the shore and at first out of sight were an additional male and female Ring-neck and seven young which were 10 days to two weeks old. The male was about 30 yards from the brood and the other three pairs were from 40 to 60 yards from the brood. When at last the entire group of birds was frightened, the three pairs without observed broods flew to the west shore of north bay, flying about 200 yards, and settled in the water close to the shore. The male which was apparently with the brood female flew about 200 yards up the east shore and the female and brood scurried off across the water, closed into a small group, and settled down about 20 yards off shore after covering about 100 yards of open water. All the birds remained in view, apparently not frightened sufficiently to seek cover.

On July 11, 1946, Severinghaus and a companion visited the pond again in hopes of locating the brood. The north bay was thoroughly searched but no ducks were seen. In the west bay, in a small area of open water about 20 by 40 feet in dimensions, a female Ring-neck with a brood of nine or possibly ten young was found. The young were very small—a week old or possibly younger. At first the observers were not seen and the brood, scattered over an area about six or eight yards square, was swimming among the lily pads. When we were seen, they clustered around the female and scurried across the water into the cattails. Then the female emerged and headed for us. She came within eight or ten yards of the canoe; then half flying, half swimming, she scuttled out of the small area, going away from the brood and into the main open-water area. We remained in place for about ten minutes, watching her antics and listening to the young call. When we left, the female led us down the channel to the main open-water area before returning to her brood. After this, two adult male Ring-necks and several adult Black Ducks were flushed along south bay but no additional broods were found.

It was apparent from the size of the ducklings that at least two broods of Ring-necks, one of seven and the second of nine or ten, were hatched on Jones Pond in 1946. Whether either brood grew to maturity is not known as the area was not visited again.—C. W. Severinghaus and Dirck Benson, *Wildlife Research Center, Delmar, New York.*

Food of the Lark Bunting in central Utah.—Lark Buntings (*Calamospiza melanocorys* Stejneger) were moderately abundant along sagebrush and rabbitbrush fence rows west of Nephi, Utah, on May 19, 1941. The stomach of one specimen, collected by F. C. Harmston and the writer, contained the following insects: 1 fly, 1 beetle, and 1 harvester ant, besides insect fragments. Also present was a spider, 65 seeds mostly of weeds, and two Russian thistle plant fragments. One of five Lark Bunting specimens observed about four miles north of Fountain Green, Utah, on May 21, 1941, was collected by the writer. Recognizable insects present in the stomach of this specimen were: 2 beetles (1 a weevil), 3 Hymenoptera, 2 of which were ants. In addition the stomach held 5 kernels of wheat, 1 sunflower seed, 7 other weed seeds and a few plant fragments. The bird specimens were identified by Drs. J. S. Stanford and C. L. Hayward.—George F. Knowlton, *Utah State Agricultural College, Logan, Utah.*

Fall migration of the Purple Martin.—In the January, 1947, issue of The Auk, Mr. Alexander Sprunt, Jr., had a speculative note on the date of first autumn movement of the Purple Martin (*Progne subis subis*). Perhaps the following observations on the post-nesting activity of the species in my neighbourhood may add something to the apparently scanty data on the subject. These observations were

made near Streetsville in the valley of the Credit River in Peel County, Ontario, Canada.

In 1942, there was, to my knowledge, no martin colony in the immediate neighbourhood. On July 25, the spruce trees around our house were 'invaded' by martins, mostly young and females. The young were still being fed and spent most of the day sitting on the spruce tree tips. This happened again the next day. On the 27th, to quote from my diary: "Very hot to-day. About 90°. Such a great swallow movement all day. High and low the sky was full of them—mostly Barn, many Purple Martins and Swifts. An endless milling about. Young were being fed in the air and it would surely be a wise parent that would know its own offspring in that mêlée." On the 28th the martins and swallows were gone and only an occasional martin was seen up to August 11, the last date for the species for that year.

In 1943 we had a martin house on our property with a single pair of resident birds which raised three young. On August 9, while these young were still in the nest, there was a martin invasion resembling that of the previous year. Fifteen to twenty birds were in and about the spruce in the morning and in the afternoon many more were milling about with swallows very high in the sky. After this date, numbers dropped abruptly and tapered off to the end of the month when the last were seen. In 1944 and 1945, no such concentration of the species was noted.

In 1946, five pairs nested successfully in the martin house, raising nineteen young (fifteen were banded July 28 by R. Baker and H. Southam of Toronto). All but two of these had left the nests by August 1 and from then until the 18th (when the last two young had flown) ten or twelve were to be seen daily and roosted in or on the house each night. On the 18th, a flock of twenty birds was around all day but none stayed to roost, and after that date numbers again dropped abruptly to seven seen on the 21st, five on the 25th, and so on until the last (four) were seen on August 30.

It appears, then, in this locality at least, that there is definite movement of martins as soon as the young leave the nest and before those of late nestings have done so. Of course these gatherings that I see could come from some local roost which might be occupied until much later in the season, the birds spreading from it daily in varying directions. But I do not think so. I know of no such roost in this region and there is such an abrupt drop in numbers after each assembly that it certainly appears that the birds are definitely 'on the move.' MARGARET H. MITCHELL, *Streetsville, R. R. 1, Ontario, Canada.*

Albinism in a flock of English Sparrows.—For the past eighteen years I have had under observation a small flock of English Sparrows that have frequented the area that surrounds the bird house in the zoo and that is devoted to the outside captive birds. During this period many generations of birds have existed, as several broods are raised annually.

In 1928 I first observed that this flock of sparrows contained many partially albinistic individuals. Albinism is not infrequent among birds, and may occur in any species. This lack of pigment in a bird always excites interest. Due to the albinistic markings it is comparatively easy to follow and scrutinize such unusual birds. It is not difficult to walk around the bird house and point out this flock to the bird student, so pronounced and permanent have the markings become. The flock consists of about fifteen birds and each bird displays one or more white feathers in the tail, scapulars and sometimes scattered among the contour feathers. I assume that much inbreeding has taken place among this flock and its ancestors, thus tending to isolate homozygous types. As a group the flock does not appear to be the typically