

AN ALBINO CROW.—A rather unusual amount of comment and excitement has followed the advent of an apparently pure white specimen of *Corvus americanus*, which has been repeatedly observed in that part of Chester Valley adjacent to the Valley Forge Hills, during the past autumn and winter seasons. It associates with a goodly number of its sable-coated brethren, all of whom are permanent residents ranging this fertile valley, and are seldom molested by man. Strange as it may appear, this solitary example of albinism seems to enjoy the full confidence of the flock, for it has been seen perched on the topmost branches of an isolated tree in a field, actually doing duty as the sentinel; its white plumage and guttural crow voice, as it warned its feeding comrades of a suspicious move and a possible danger in the road below, excited much wonder in the party that was fortunate enough to be passing at the moment.

This bird was first reported on July 4, 1895, an undoubted bird of the year from a nest by nest. At that time it was not notably wary, but has since become so through the efforts of the "man with a gun;" and an ardent desire to reap a large pecuniary reward through a false notion of the value of this odd plumaged bird after it has been riddled with shot, has placed said man's persistence and woodcraft against the cunning and acuteness of the Crow. May the latter win! Until I hear of its demise, I shall not despair of experiencing the unique pleasure of flushing it from a nest of its own construction, in one of my spring collecting trips over the Forge Hills.

The above is only one of the many examples of the albinistic phase in this species, other records are of not unfrequent occurrence in our rural press. I remember observing one in the midst of a flock that was feeding close to the railroad track at Berwyn, during the winter of '78-'79. In BULLETIN No. 5, another instance is cited by Mr. John A. Bryant, Kansas City, Mo. In every case the albinos appear to enjoy the complete confidence of their kind. That this is not the case in similar occurrences in which the English Sparrow figures, I am sure (see *Oologist*, January, 1896).

In view of the foregoing I cannot forbear reverting to one of the two hypotheses which follows: That *Corvus americanus* is color blind, or that the average intelligence of this species is vastly greater in comparison to that of *Passer domesticus*.—F. L. BURNS, *Berwyn, Penn.*

AN ALBINO BLUE JAY.—On January 3, 1894, about five miles from here I saw a specimen of Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*) almost pure white. Contrasted with the snow on surrounding objects, a slight bluish cast