

ling down attached to the extremities of the feathers instead of to the skin, as I had supposed it to be. Finding nothing concerning this peculiarity in the bird books at my command, I corresponded with a few members of the Chapter, but got no light upon the subject until last March, when Mr. F. L. Burns, of Berwyn, Penn., wrote me the following: "In relation to Nestling Down, I can offer the following, which I quote from Brewster. 'Among the North American *Altrices* the young of most species are born with thin patches of delicate soft down, restricted mainly to the feathered tracts. Beneath this fluffy down the feathers are already forming; these soon appear bearing at their summits the little tufts of down that formed the down patches.' From the above good authority we learn that all young *reared in the nest* (with some exceptions) may be found in the condition you describe. I found it to occur in the following young, just after they had left the nest: Screech Owl, Cedar Waxwing, Worm-eating and Kentucky Warblers, Oven bird, Wood Thrush, and probably other species which I do not recall." In addition to the species mentioned by Mr. Burns, I have noticed the following: Horned Lark, Maryland Yellow-throat, Robin, Bluebird, Chipping Sparrow, Great Horned Owl, Mockingbird and Red-eyed Vireo. I have made notes of but one species, the Hairy Woodpecker, that does not have the nestling down.

From the above it appears that, although most altricial birds have this peculiar nestling down, there are some which have not. It is our object to ascertain what species are exceptions. While studying the other branches of our work, let us take note of the dress of the young while yet in the nest. - H. P. MITCHELL, *Bear, Ark.*

THE RECENT OCCURRENCE OF THE TURKEY VULTURE AND BALD EAGLE IN COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS. - Two rather unexpected records of more than ordinary interest, and of rare occurrence for this section, fell to the lot of the writer the past spring, both being made, rather oddly enough, on board train, or while enroute from Chicago to my home, at Glen Ellyn. At 10:15 A. M. on April 1, while nearing Sacramento Avenue, two and one-half miles from the business center of Chicago, the train came up with three large black birds flying on our right. Their manner of flight, nearly stationary on this occasion, as they headed against a strong southerly wind then blowing, gave me a favorable opportunity of identifying them at once as straggling representatives of *Cathartes aura*, the naked red of their heads being plainly discoverable as the train drew closer. However, the noise and motion of the cars evidently changed their plans

somewhat, as they wheeled and passed rapidly from us to the north, the wind greatly aiding them in escaping further inspection. The sudden change of temperature experienced between this and the preceding day had been quite marked, which was doubtless responsible in a measure for the rather erratic movement of these birds. March 31 was a warm and spring-like day, the maximum temperature in the shade at Glen Ellyn, being 72°. On the morning of April 1 a decided change had taken place, the mercury standing, or having dropped to 30° at 7 A. M., with a strong wind from the south-east then blowing. The appearance of the Turkey Vulture at Chicago and vicinity is of such rare occurrence that records of this kind seem well worth mentioning. During a residence of many years in this section, these are the first positively noticed by the author.

BALD EAGLE. — Another rare transient hereabouts is the Bald Eagle. With seemingly good fortune, I also had the opportunity of meeting with some of these birds later in the same month, or late on the afternoon of April 28. On board the cars again, as I have previously said, the train having but just passed through Melrose Park, or at a point a few miles beyond the western limits of the city, when looking out of the window on my left, a large brown bird was noticed, which evidently had but just arisen from the ground. A Crow was in close pursuit, and, with the fine, white head of the bird showing out with such a decided and pleasing contrast, it was easily distinguished as a fine adult specimen of *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*. Aside from its rarity here, the late date of its appearance in this section also strikes one as being quite unusual. These two occurrences appear worthy of record.—BENJ. T. GAULT, *Glen Ellyn, Ills.*

OBERLIN NOTES.—THE MIGRATIONS.—The migrations have developed some interesting features, largely due to the unusual weather which prevailed during the greater part of March. Snow covered the ground, and cold northerly winds prevailed during the month up to the 28th, when a decidedly warm wave carried the snow away. Slight movements of a few species had occurred late in February. About ten migrating Crows were seen on the 24th. Killdeers were heard on the evening of the 27th, and two Bluebirds came into town on the 29th. Several of the resident species gave evidence of approaching spring during the warm days of late February. Robins, Bronzed Grackles and Meadowlarks braved the cold weather and made their appearance on the 5th, 9th and 15th of March