

RUBY- AND GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLETS, *Regulus calendula and satrapa*.—Are seen and heard in the woods. Seem to be about the same number as last season.

RUSTY BLACKBIRD, *Scotocophagus ferrugineus*.—Were seen in small flocks during October. Last Nov. 12.

RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD, *Agelaius phoeniceus*.—Were with us in large flocks during October.

BRONZED GRACKLE, *Quiscalus quiscula aeneus*.—Present in large flocks during October.

WHIT HARRISON, *La Crescent, Minn.*

WHERE THE JUNCOS ROOST.—In a hilly piece of woodland near here the banks in many places are so steep that the earth slides down, leaving an overhanging fringe of roots and rootlets, covered above with mould and fallen leaves—a continuation of the surface soil of the hill-tops. Within these cave-like places the Juncos roost in considerable numbers, probably all within reasonable distances of the banks, and apparently occupy them all winter.

J. C. GALLOWAY, *Montgomery, O.*

THE AMERICAN LONG-EARED OWL IN CONFINEMENT DRINKS WATER.—

An American Long-eared Owl was taken on May 25th last, together with four others, from an old crow's nest in a deep tamarack swamp in Jackson county. They were apparently about two weeks old and yet in the down. The individual in question was kept alive and christened "Socrates", while his four less fortunate brothers and sisters with the parent bird were made ready for the skin shelves. Now I had kept Great Horned Owls, and Screech Owls for over two years at a time and never had I known one to drink water nor had they an opportunity to do so if they wished. Socrates was kept for about six months in our cellar and well fed with mice, sparrows and red squirrels, bits of meat, etc., and he thrived and grew. One day a dish of water chanced in his presence and he placed himself in the three inches of water, drank very heartily, taking long gulps and then raising the head and swallowing as do the ordinary fowls. Since then he has been regularly provided with water, and he seems to want it as would a canary or goldfinch. He is now in a spacious cage, a hearty undisputed example of a survivor of total abstinence of water (not fire water, but aqua pura, H₂O). Let the camel "look to his laurels." Query, do owls and hawks at large and in confinement usually drink and do they need to do so?

L. WHITNEY WATKINS, *Manchester, Mich.*

Mr. Benjamin T. Gault, Glen Ellyn, Ill., writes: "I saw two Meadowlarks here on the 10th of January, and a large flock of Canada Geese on the 15th. Unusual winter visitors here.

EDITORIAL.

The year just closed has been the most prosperous one in the history of the Chapter, both financially and intellectually. Increased interest in the study of the birds has resulted in a larger paid up membership than for any previous year. There has been a marked tendency toward inquiry into the inner life of birds, an intelligent effort to search out the cause of any action while seeking a closer acquaintance with each bird. An accurate record of the migrations, the song, the food, the nesting, the eggs and the many other characteristics which we are wont to notice, will always be useful, but we need to look beyond these external things into the life of the bird and determine, if we can, why these things are so. We are just beginning to learn that the real problems of bird life are more than skin deep. The old grind that a 'bird in the hand is worth two in the bush' may still apply to other things, but it certainly does not apply to the birds. We want to know *them*, not simply their skins. May the coming year see still greater advance in this good work.

An invitation has been received to attend the January meeting of the Cooper Ornithological Club at the residence of our fellow member, Mr. Chester Barlow, 529 South Fourth street, San Jose, Calif., which met on January 9. Among the papers presented is one on the "Habits of the Red-bellied Hawk" by another fellow member, Mr. Henry Ward Carri-ger. This live club is doing good work.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

The Oologist, Vol. IX. No. 1. Frank H. Latin, Albion, N. Y.

Bulletin of the U. S. National Museum No. 49. A Bibliography of the Published Writings of Philip Lutley Sclater, by G. Brown Goode.

The Iowa Ornithologist. Vol. II. No. 4., Oct. 1896. David L. Savage, Salem, Ia.

The Fern Bulletin, Vol. V. No. 1., Jan. 1897. W. N. Clute, Bing-hamton, N. Y.