

SHORT NOTES.

PURPLE GALLINULE, *Tonornis martinica*, on Sandusky Bay, April 28, 1896. Prof. E. L. Moseley, Sandusky, Ohio.

A RED CROSSBILL appeared at Glen Ellyn, Illinois, February 19. This is my first Glen Ellyn record. Benjamin T. Gault.

Mourning Dove, Rusty Grackle and Pine Siskin on the shore of Lake Erie, 12 miles north of Oberlin, February 13, and Bluebird, February 17, are the earliest Oberlin records. Lynds Jones.

Robins and Purple Grackles fairly common here February 19, exactly 20 days before the first were seen by me last year. Russell Gray, Philadelphia, Pa.

Migrations opened at Wady Petra, Illinois, February 28, with the arrival of a Bobin. March 8, Meadowlarks, Red-tailed Hawks, Mourning Dove, Killdeer, were recorded. Virginius H. Chase.

EDITORIAL.

WHERE DOES JUNCO ROOST?—A number of replies have been received answering this question, but before the answers are published there should be many more of them. Does Junco pass the winter in your vicinity? If so, where does he roost during the night and in stormy weather? Answers to these two questions should be sent to the editor at once from every member. In this way the exact range of Junco for the past winter can be determined.

PINE SISKIN, *Spinus pinus*.—Early in the winter it was known that the Siskins were making a phenomenal movement southward. They were recorded in central Missouri and other localities where their presence was looked upon as unusual at least. Mr. Arthur T. Wayne, of Mount Pleasant, South Carolina, writes as follows: 'The Siskins were here in enormous flocks in December, 1896. They fed upon the seeds of the Sweet Gum, also in Short-leaf Pines. My first specimen was shot from the top of a pine 125 feet up. This is the first record of the capture of this bird here since Audubon found them near Charleston in 1833. The first Siskin was taken December 12, but the birds arrived in November.'

Nearly all reports indicate that the Siskins flock with Goldfinch. The question naturally arises, is it not possible that Siskins are present more often than we suspect, being mistaken for the Goldfinch? More

careful attention to the supposed flocks of Goldfinches will settle this point.

Mr. Wayne also reports a nest with two eggs very much addled, of the Bald Eagle, February 3, 1897.

LYNDS JONES, *Oberlin, Ohio.*

Mr. James Newton Baskett sends the following interesting letter :

You ask for a note, or so. I can only say that I am much surprised that the fly-catching habit of the Red-headed Woodpecker should be noted as anything new, as stated in BULLETIN 7, page 5, since it has been familiar to me all my life. I am sure there must be some mistake about Dr. Merriam being the first to observe this or even note it, since I am impressed with having seen it of record somewhere, before we had an Agricultural Department. In the South the boys have a trick of hurling a small stone almost vertically upward past the woodpecker's perch (when they note him at the aerial flycatching) and he will sometimes fly at the stone in its descent and be so stunned by it as to fall.

So, likewise, the foster brother act, noted by Mr. W. L. Dawson, BULLETIN 10, page 4, is not so rare as thought. I have seen Redbirds and others assisting other species of birds in feeding their young. In a cage in my own family, a Redbird (Cardinal) of the year took charge at once of an orphan canary placed with him, and fed it all its food. He was in every respect quite motherly, and the canary, besides its own song, learned that of its foster brother. See similar instance of wren in *Osprey*, January, 1897.

JAMES NEWTON BASKETT, *Mexico, Missouri.*

THE SWALLOW REPORT.

It is a pleasure to me to extend my sincere thanks to the many persons, members and others (and why not members?), who have so kindly aided me in my work with notes and suggestions. My correspondence has been so great and my time so limited that I have failed to answer many of the letters. In addition to those answered I have received valuable notes from Joseph Grinnell, Horace A. Gaylord, C. D. McLouth, George D. Peck, J. Eugene Law and N. Hollister, who would have received prompt thanks but for the rush of business. I need notes particularly from the Middle and Gulf states and Canada. Please send in what notes you now have on hand and gain as many more as possible this season.