

waders, and just as cheerful. The Crows were able to scratch the snow aside and search out the grain in the fields. An inundated field, where weeds and grasses had been allowed to grow in bewildering confusion, afforded a brimming larder for Goldfinches, Tree Sparrows and Song Sparrows. Here they, too, were soon obliged to lift the soaked grass heads from the water, before their hunger could be satisfied. The dainty dress of the Goldfinch seemed very much out of place down among the rotting vegetation.

LYNDS JONES, *Oberlin, Ohio.*

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### BRÜNNICH'S MURRE, *URIA LOMVIA* IN LORAIN COUNTY, OHIO.

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It gives me great pleasure to announce a hitherto overlooked Lorain County record for this species. Mr. A. Hengartner, of Lorain, Ohio, informs me that on December 25, 1896, while passing along the lake shore some two miles west of Lorain, he came upon a company of six of these birds. Three were shot and one, which was some distance in from the water on the beach, was captured alive. The other two escaped. Of the four specimens captured, one is in the collection of the Lorain High School, and one has been presented to the Oberlin College Museum by Mr. Hengartner. The writer believes that this company of six individuals is the largest one on record for the 1896 inland flight of this maritime species.

LYNDS JONES, *Oberlin, Ohio.*

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### NOTES FOR THE COMMITTEE ON VARIATION.

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It would be a great favor if members who are willing to contribute to the work of the Committee on Variation would send in their names at an early date with some indication of the amount of song sparrow material at their disposal.

Measurements and examinations of even only one race are of value, for with the methods to be employed it is necessary to have a large number of specimens studied. In the co-operative method of study a member with only a few specimens can do work of value by reporting on what he does have. It is desirable to have material as widely repre-

sentative as possible. All contributions will of course receive full credit.

Study of variation need not be limited to song sparrows. Variations, including abnormalities, in other birds or their eggs should be recorded and studied. I would recommend a consideration of the material described in a recent publication by J. Warren Jacobs, entitled *Cleanings from Nature*, which is a good piece of work and offers opportunities for a good deal of study.

R. M. STRONG, 11 Mellen St., Cambridge, Mass.

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## ELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS.

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### HONORARY.

Robert Ridgway, Smithsonian Institute, Washington, D. C.

Dr. C. Hart Merriam, United States Agricultural Department, Washington, D. C.

### ACTIVE.

Edward J. Court, United States Geological Survey, Washington, D. C.

Ned Dearborn, M. S., Durham, N. H.

### ASSOCIATE.

Thomas D. Keim, Lock-box 84, Bristol, Pa.

Adverse votes should be sent to the secretary, Mr. W. L. Dawson, Oberlin, O., before April 15.

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## INFORMATION WANTED.

A year ago the editor made an attempt to collect data regarding the migrations of the Robin, Bluebird, Meadowlark and Killdeer. Too little information was received to make any sort of a report possible. The extreme cold of February of the present year no doubt considerably affected these birds, as well as others, and knowledge of their later movements over the whole country would be interesting and valuable. Will not every one who reads this notice send the editor, on a postal card, a brief notice of the arrival of each of these species at his station, at once? A statement when they became common would also be interesting.

LYNDS JONES, Oberlin, Ohio.