

that is more often uttered from the ground than above it, having watched it for hours together walking, running and feeding amidst the ferns, mandrake, skunk cabbage and spicewood.

FRANK L. BURNS, *Berwyn, Penna.*

AN OPEN QUESTION.—Is there anything like morality among the birds? Have the birds any genuine sense of obligation where other birds are concerned, or does might make right with them universally? These questions have been chasing each other through my mind of late, and have failed to find an answer. The other day, as I sat in the edge of the woods rather idly watching the tree-tops for the Warblers, the actions of a female Redstart arrested my attention. Instead of feeding it seemed to be peering about in an anxious manner as it gradually ascended from the lower branches of a large oak tree. Some fifty feet up among the branches it stopped in its upward course and circled the tree trunk, always with the same anxious air. Suddenly it plunged into the midst of a spreading thicket of branches and began working madly at something, which, upon closer inspection, proved to be a half completed nest of a Yellow-throated Vireo. Mrs. Redstart was frantically yanking fibers and cobwebs from the outside of the nest, and soon darted down into the shrubbery with a mouthful of the stolen material for her own nest. I have many times seen birds destroy old nests for the material which was used in making a new one, but in only a few instances have I seen such robbery as this.

LYNDS JONES, *Oberlin, Ohio.*

THE WESTERN GROSBEAK, *Coccothraustus vespertinus montanus*, IN COLORADO.—The evening Grosbeak is referred to in BULLETIN No. 34, as a rare bird. I made its acquaintance (the western form) for the first time this year, and in such numbers as to raise a doubt of its rarity. Walking down a street near Mapleton Hill, Boulder, Colorado, in February, I was startled by the discovery of a dozen of them in a small tree. They were apparently very hungry, searching the tree for food, paying no attention to me, though many of them were within six or eight feet of me. Afterwards I saw them daily for several