

Journal of Science, Vol. I, pp. 483 and 498; (1) plates V-VIII; (2) plate X, New Haven, Nov. and Dec. 1895.

These two admirable papers contain a large amount of most valuable and timely information on a group of "Extinct Monsters," the affinities of which are fast becoming better known as more perfect and ample material is forthcoming in the remarkable discoveries of recent years.

Ornithology—BLUE-BIRD—DICKCISSEL.—I see by a recent number of the OTTAWA NATURALIST that the Blue-bird, (*Sialia sialis*) is no commoner in Ottawa this year than it is in Western Ontario. Very early in the season murmurs of a shortage began to arise, and it was the 23rd of May before I saw one at all, though one pair was known to be nesting near town before then, and four were all I saw during the summer. Observers near Lake St. Clair write that there were a few in that region, and the reports of others coincide with my own observations in noting quite a number in the fall migration in October.

Recent reports in "Forest and Stream" state that the Blue-birds died in Georgia by hundreds in the severe frosts of last winter, and an editorial footnote to a recent letter about the Blue-bird, said that a friend in South Florida sent the information that, contrary to the customary order of things, the blue-birds remained there during the year, nesting in great numbers.

Coupling this with the observation of occasional flocks from the North this fall, one is led to hope that they will not be so rare next year as they were this summer.

An interesting problem arises about which one can do little but theorize. In a given area, say a square mile, let us grant that there were in 1895 one hundred pairs of Blue-birds. These laid 4, 5, & 6 eggs per pair, and probably each pair brought an average of at least three young to maturity. In June then, there were 500 Blue-birds where in April there were but 200. In the following year there were but 100 pair again, for Blue-birds have not been growing in abundance nor have they been materially extending their range. Therefore, there had been a mortality, approximately of about 60% of all the birds between June