

occurring not only in the Trimetric and in the Monometric Systems, new examples of which (as regards the latter) are described above ; but also in the Monoclinic System, in which until now, none have been announced ; and in which, moreover, by some observers, these crystals have been thought of impossible occurrence.

(2.) Although thus shown to occur in various systems, none have yet been recognised, with certainty, amongst minerals or in artificial crystals of the Hexagonal System.

(3.) Hence—from the facts given in conclusions 1 and 2—the assumed Hexagonal crystallization of snow, if not disproved, becomes at least of very doubtful acceptance.

NOTICES OF BIRDS OBSERVED NEAR HAMILTON, C. W.

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To those who are aware of the many additions which have of late years been made to the list of American birds, as well as of the difference of opinion which still prevails among authors regarding the identity of certain species, it must be evident that our knowledge of this branch of our Natural History is by no means complete. Probably, the greatest difficulty in the way of getting anything like conclusive information on the points in dispute, arises from the migratory character of nearly all the birds of North America, and the remote regions in which they spend the interesting period of reproduction ; so few indeed, can be called *resident*, that if we take any point on the continent and ascertain the number of species which reside there all the year round, we are astonished at the smallness of the list ; in our own case it would not exceed a dozen species, and even of these, it is doubtful whether those we see in summer are not replaced by other individuals of the same species, coming from the north at the approach of winter.

Another perplexing subject to the ornithologist has ever been, the changes of plumage which birds undergo at certain periods of their lives, or at particular seasons of the year. This is most remarkable among our rapacious birds, many of which do not come to maturity in plumage till their 4th or 5th year, and having been found breeding in the immature dress, have frequently been described as distinct species.