

Cowbird, (*Molothrus ater*). The report for 1891 recorded an instance of a pair of chipping sparrows, whose nest had been invaded by a cowbird in the usual fashion, but who succeeded in bringing their own young to maturity as well as the young cowbird.

The same observer, Miss Gertrude Harmer, in her notes for 1893, tells of a like case which came under her notice this year, and in which the result was equally fortunate. We are not aware of any other records similar to these, but it is possible that closer observation, on the part of those who may be fortunate enough to find nests containing eggs of the cowbird, might serve in some degree to relieve this species of the blame that has always attached to it, as a preventer of the hatching of the eggs of other birds.

An albino specimen of this species was observed this autumn near Shirley's Bay by Dr. McElhinney and Messrs. Robson and Thicke.

A number of minor observations in bird life, such as do not call for a place in this report, have been noted from time to time during the year in the Ottawa "NATURALIST" under the head of Notes on Ornithology.

The table of first and last appearances of migrants for 1893 has been prepared, but owing to the comparatively small number of records it has not been deemed advisable to publish it. It may, however, be referred to when required.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

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NOTE. - The second excursion was held on Saturday, 23rd June, to Wakefield, and was a very successful and enjoyable trip, of which a fuller account will be given next month.--The several Sub Editors could contribute very greatly to the value and interest of the NATURALIST, and also lighten the work of the Editor, by sending in contributions more regularly. (Ed.)