

NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

Albinistic American Robin in Allegany County: Receiving a phone call about a peculiar white bird that had been in Wellsville for about a week, I went to investigate on 16 April 1983. As I drove along Fairview Ave., soon I spotted several American Robins feeding on a lawn, and with one of them, about 30 feet from my car, was a bird of the same size and shape as the robins but with white breast and back. The breast was faintly dusted with orange-brown at the top and along each side below the wings. With medium-sized yellow bill of the same size and shape as the robin's, the bird's head was gray with a lighter area around the eye, and the gray extended down the neck to the upper breast. The wings and tail were a darker gray blotched with white. The bird moved about, picking and eating earthworms from the lawn, just as the robin near it was doing. I studied it in the open in cloudy-bright light from noon until 12:15 p.m. with 7 x 50 binoculars and went back the following morning to try to get pictures. This time the bird was near where it had been feeding before, and in bright sunlight the orange-brown wash on the white breast was particularly beautiful. Because the size, shape, actions, head carriage and bill were like those of the robins always feeding with it, I am confident this was an albinistic American Robin. Others who also saw the bird and agree with me on its identification are Dorothy Stoll and Dan Gridley.

Vivian Mills Pitzrick, Amity Lake, Belmont, New York 14813