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H. E. Jaques
Iowa Wesleyan College

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AN UNUSUALLY MARKED PARTIAL ALBINO ROBIN

H. E. JAQUES

Complete albinism occasionally occurs in our Common Robin. The writer has known of two broods of young Robins in each of which were two normally colored birds and two others wholly white with pink eyes. One of these nests was found at Cedar Point, Ohio, during the summer of 1912; the other at Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, several years later. In each case the birds were seen on several occasions. They all developed normally and left the nest. The further history of these four albinos is unknown to us except that one of the two white birds which grew at Mt. Pleasant was found dead after a heavy rain storm within a few days after it left the nest. Both parents in each of these two instances were normally marked Robins.

Robins with some unusual white marking are frequently observed. These partial albinos are often so characteristically marked that individuals may be readily recognized. It is not unusual for such individuals to return one or more years to the same community. The extra white markings may consist of patches on the back or an unusual amount of white in the wings.

For several weeks during the fall of 1945 a partial albino was observed in the west part of Mt. Pleasant. It seemed to be a young bird awaiting the fall migration. Its abnormal color pattern could not fail to attract attention.

The head, neck, eyes, tail and primaries and secondaries in the wings were of normal color. All other feather covered areas were white except that of a streak about one-fourth inch wide extending lengthwise through the middle of the breast was the usual rufous-red of the normal robin. The bird was not caught but was photographed at some distance. From the clean cut black markings of the head it was thought to be a male. It was hoped that it might be seen again this spring but no reports of it have come to our attention.

IOWA WESLEYAN COLLEGE,
Mt. Pleasant, Iowa.