

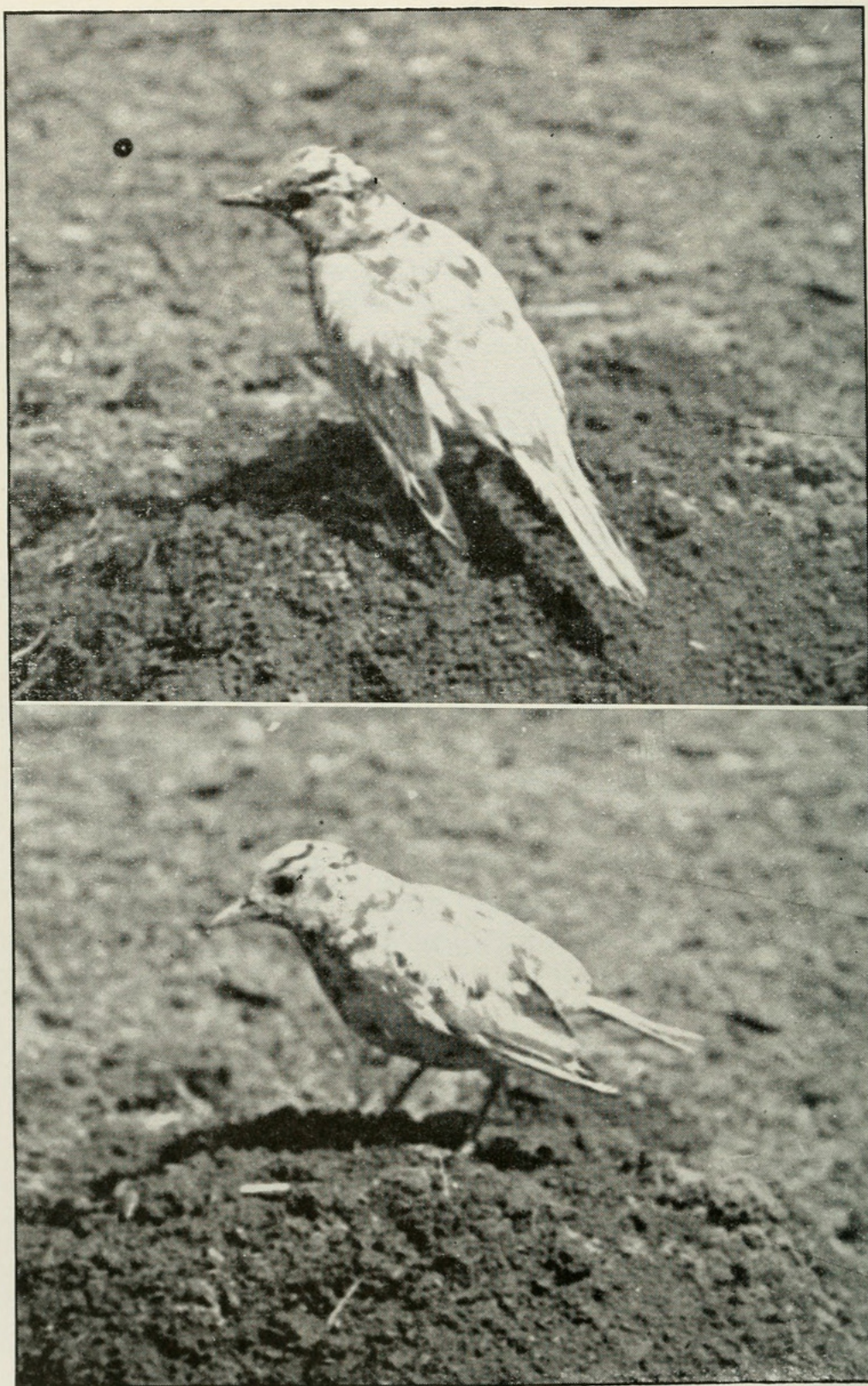
AN ALBINISTIC ROBIN

ALVIN R. CAHN

While albinism, or a tendency toward albinism in birds is common enough to have supplied most museums with stuffed or mounted specimens showing varying degrees of whiteness in many species, it is rare enough to have escaped the efforts of most of the hunters who have substituted the camera for the gun. It is for this reason, and not because albinism is a rarity, that the two accompanying photographs of a strikingly albinistic robin are offered.

This robin appeared on the campus of the University of Wisconsin on March 5, 1917, and remained there during the entire summer, in spite of the fact that it was among the very earliest of the robins to return in the spring. An examination of the photographs will show that the bird is fully 85% white. Those pigmented feathers which were present were for the most part normal in color, though the few brown feathers on the breast were somewhat pale in color, and the bill and legs were nearly white. The bird was a female and was seen to mate with a normal male. Two unsuccessful attempts were made to nest. The first nest contained five eggs, the second four. Both were deserted for some unknown reason before the incubation period had expired. A subsequent examination of the eggs showed three of the second batch fertile, and two of the first.

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