Puzzle #16: You Must Be Yolking!

The common sentiment is that if you have to explain a joke, then either it was told poorly, or it wasn't that good of a joke in the first place. Right now we're going to test out a related theory on puzzles. Below are explanations of the punchlines of some very common jokes. By navigating the overly verbose wording, can you determine what the original jokes were? The numbers in parentheses after each entry indicate how many letters are in each word of the joke. Think I'm going to tell you how to use the subscripts? Ha! You crack me up...

1. The number of tales therein is confused with an informal measurement to improperly establish an athenaeum's unsurpassed height. $(3)(2)_2(1)(7)(3)_1(7)_2(8)_6$?

2. Independent of the ruddy hue and heroic occupation, the function of keeping clothes in place is overemphasized. $(3)(2)(7)_3(4)_1(3)(10)_8$?

3. The past-tense of a verb associated to a monochromatic periodical is a homophone for a crimsony hue. $(4'1)(5)_2(3)(5)(3)(3)(3)_3(4)$?

4. The expectation of obscenity is replaced with a statement about a clumsy, besmirched equine. $(4)(2)_1(4)(1)(5)(4)_2$?

5. Reinterpreting a key word as “plural of small insect” rather than the commonplace “moving through the air” classifies a specific type of refuse-collecting vehicle. $(4)_4(3)_1(4)(6)(3)(5)_4$?

6. Migratory behavioral motivations were not the emphasis, rather, geographical metrics and ambulatory technique were. $(3)(2)(5)_3(3)(5)(3)(3)(6)_2$?

7. The pachyderm-trod-upon fruit does not verbally object; rather it produces a sad, pathetic noise which sounds the same as a type of alcoholic beverage created by said fruit. $(4)(3)(3)(5)_1(3)(4)_2(3)_1(8)(7)(2)_1(2)$?

8. A string of consecutive numbers, one of which is phonetically equivalent to a form of consumption, indicated a violent act, explaining the induced fear. $(3)(3)(3)(6)(2)_2(5)$?

9. The names of pastries, interpreted as subject-verb clauses, suggest cause-and-effect rotational kinematics. $(3)(3)(3)_1(5)(4)$?

10. Bovines' accoutrements rectify their non-functioning cranial growths, which are puns for a bugle-like instruments. $(3)_2(2)(4)(4)_2(5)$?

11. Ridiculously suggesting that lyrical ignorance causes particular avians to create sounds with unopened mouths. $(3)(2)(12)_7(3)$?

12. Homophonic language regarding capturing Leporidae leads to confusing definitions of “one-of-a-kind” and “stealthy movement.” $(3)(2)(3)(5)(1)(6)(6)_2$?

13. Rather than eliminate malodorous emanations, one inadvertently prevents olfactory functions for a notoriously noxious animal. $(3)(2)(3)(4)_4(1)(5)(4)(8)_1$?

14. The instructor's inability to maintain order is associated to an optometrical disorder and involves a synonym for “student.” $(3)(3)(4)(3)_1(3)(5)_3(3)(5\text{-}4)_2(7)_6$?

And a big thanks to Blane Hollingsworth for helping me construct this puzzle (his knowledge of jokes far exceeds mine -- he's a much funnier guy than I). -- Eric Harshbarger