

COMMENTS ON DISEASED BIRDS

Marie Dumont (Mrs. G. A. Dumont, Sr.) has the following to say about diseased birds:

"Of late there has come to my attention quite a few Red-wings that have a great deal of trouble with their legs and feet. Sometimes one, and sometimes both, legs are covered with a scaly disease, some to such an extent that they lose their nails and the scales seem to crack open. (Sounds like foot pox, doesn't it, PHF?-Ed.)

"Had such a bird brought in this past Friday afternoon, and the best I could think to do for it was to apply carbolic ointment. Later on, I was told that this condition was caused by mites, due to filth accumulating on the birds' legs. (Perhaps so in caged birds, but is this possible in wild ones?-Ed.)

"This information came from a canary and parakeet breeder, and he suggested the use of vaseline, so I wasn't far wrong in my previous decision. However, I am wondering if other banders find the same trouble prevalent among Red-wings, and, if so, what they do? While the birds must be in misery, they seem to feed and fly well. Would just ordinary swampy areas which are unpolluted cause this to happen?

"I also had two Robins brought in recently that had developed what appears to be fluid under the skin covering the lower part of the breast, abdomen, and sides. The first died; the second one I now have indoors, and it feeds -- the first was in worse shape than the latter. The party who brought this one thinks his cat might have got hold of the bird; however it has no broken bones or noticeable bruises of any kind."--311 Pompton Turnpike, Pequannock, New Jersey, letter dated June 11, 1955. * * *

PSSST!!

From Dr. C. Brooke Worth, comes the following rebuttal to Mrs. Gstell's letter in EBBA NEWS, March-April 1955, pp. 42-43:

"Thanks for the letter you forwarded from Mrs. Gstell. It was a delightful note which all of us have enjoyed, including (I fear) our cat, for I immediately went out and put four robins to death by slow torture and gave them to pussy.