

A NEW SPECIES IN PENNSYLVANIA

By Raymond J. Middleton

On April 17, 1962, I banded the first Lark Bunting (*Calamospiza melanocorys*) ever taken in Pennsylvania. This bird, a male, had been visiting a feeding station daily at Graterford, ten miles from Norristown, since early last December.

Due to its streaked winter plumage it was not identified until April 6th when the dark male colors began to appear on the underparts. Hundreds of bird students and many experts came to see this rare visitor; according to Peterson, most of this species winters in Mexico. It was now singing often and was not disturbed by the many visitors.

I took two traps up and placed them by the feeding area; eleven days later it entered one of them. Earl Poole, former Curator of the Reading (Pa.) Museum, was present when the bird was taken and released.

An interesting sidelight was connected with the banding of this, my rarest catch - our banding operations were started in July of 1921, and since that time we have kept accurate records of every bird handled. On April 17th, these totals were as follows:

Total of birds banded:	49,394
Total birds repeated:	48,816
Total birds returned:	1,705
Total taken banded by other banders:	84
Total captures of all birds:	<u>99,999</u>

Thus, the Lark Bunting became the 100,000th time I held a bird in my hands.

Much credit is due James McGrath, at whose home the bird spent the winter and who first identified it. Further identification was made by David Cutler of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club who knew the species in Colorado.

The bird came to feed on the morning of April 26th and was now in the full male spring plumage. It left that day at noon and has not been seen again. Our hope is that somewhere on its journey westward it may again be caught so that we may learn more about its travels.

131 N. Whitehall Rd., Norristown, Pa.

AOU MEETING The 80th Stated Meeting (annual meeting) of the American Ornithologists' Union will be August 20-24, 1962, at Salt Lake City, Utah. Detailed information may be obtained from Dr. William H. Behle, 204 Biology Building, University of Utah, Salt Lake City 12.