

the commonest Lark in Greece—wild and wary—a good mimic.” Dresser is reluctant to believe that this species ever occurred in America. He states, “Swainson has given it a place in the ‘Fauna Boreali Americana’ on authority of a dealer and afterwards on that of a specimen in the British Museum, said to be from the Fur Countries and presented by the Hudson Bay Company. This is undoubtedly an error.” It is noted for its singing ability and for this reason “many are taken when young and kept in cages.”

Accordingly, this individual is quite likely an escaped cage bird. However the bird's actions and general appearance would not support this statement. It was exceedingly wary, and was a male in robust physical condition. The plumage was not faded or worn, the feet were normal and free from disease, and the claws were clean and sharp. How it reached this continent will probably remain an unsolved mystery!—JOHN A. GILLESPIE, *Glenolden, Pa.*

Starling at Madison, Wisconsin.—The Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) has reached Dane County. On March 18, 1928, while driving towards Lake Kegonsa to look for waterfowl, a flock of 40 birds flew across the road near the outlet to Lake Monona. From their flight, I felt certain that they were Starlings. They fed for the most part in a large meadow, but were so restless and wary that four hours of intensive work failed to provide a single shot. The birds fed in one spot for only two or three minutes; and then were gone to a distant portion of the field. The arrival of a Robin or a Meadowlark was sufficient to send them into the air. This wariness was entirely unexpected from my limited experience with the species in the East.

I made a third attempt in the company of Mr. John Main on the afternoon of March 20. This was successful. After one of the customary irruptions, the flock alighted near a low bank. A hurried approach, literally *ventre à terre*, brought me within range, and as the birds rose into the air I secured three. This is the western-most record for Wisconsin and constitutes the only large flock reported. H. L. Stoddard (*The Auk*, 40, 537) obtained two birds in the Milwaukee region in February, 1923, and S. Paul Jones (*Ibid.* 44, 104) found a pair breeding near Waukesha in June, 1926. These data indicate that the spread of the Starling has been slow and not extensive in Wisconsin.—A. W. SCHORGER, 2021 *Kendall Avenue, Madison, Wisconsin.*

An Epidemic of Albinism.—While touring the lowlands at the southern extremity of Bellingham Bay, Washington, January 8, 1928, Mr. E. J. Booth and I came upon a flock of approximately 500 Brewer's Blackbirds (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*). We soon observed that many of the birds were more or less spotted with white. At least two showed white tails, and others white quills in one or both wings, while yet others exhibited various less conspicuous spots and blotches of white. The

birds were wild and restless and were continually making short flights as we approached. At first it was our suspicion that these birds had come in contact with fresh paint or some other coloring agency; for such a widespread display of albinism was altogether foreign to our experience. Eventually it was decided to get out the shotgun with a view to securing a typical specimen of these maculated birds. The flock soon alighted at a convenient distance and one of the white-tailed birds was selected as the target. Of course the shot pattern included in its scope a number of others, but it could not be helped. After the shot we picked up fifteen dead birds. On examining them we found that no less than seven showed distinct white markings, mostly among the smaller feathers of various parts of the body. The white-tailed bird had also some of the wing quills of the same color, with minor feathers elsewhere showing white. We have the skins of the seven albinistic specimens. Truly, "birds of a feather flock together," at times.

We had no reason to think that the fifteen birds secured were not fairly representative of the flock. When seemingly more than 40 per cent of a large flock of birds show evidences of albinism, an explanation will be welcomed. It perhaps suggests a close blood relationship, and shows a flock solidarity during their winter wanderings worthy of an organized tribe. Possibly they represent the summer Blackbird population of some particular valley or other isolated area in Alaska or British America.—J. M. EDSON, *Bellingham, Wash.*

Redpolls in Michigan in Summer.—During June, this year, I was about deluged with Pine Siskins. The first ones came in June 7 and they were around in numbers until June 29. June 19 I counted 500, and there were more, all over the ground just outside my dining room window. I banded between 250 and 300 while the birds were here and could have banded two or three times as many if I could have devoted more time to it. All the birds banded in June, 273 (except 9 showing no yellow whatever) had more or less yellow on wings and tail and 91 of these were more or less tinged below, the great majority greenish-yellow, a few greenish-buff and one or two just a straight greenish tinge. On several very highly colored birds the tinge extended to the upper parts, particularly the head and rump, and in a few cases the greater coverts were edged with yellow, not buff.

Of the tinged birds those with most yellow on wings and tail were the most highly tinged, no birds showing very little yellow on wings and tail, which I took for the younger birds, had any tinge below. From this I would say that the older the bird the heavier and brighter the tinge. My card records furnish the following data:

Birds tinged below—

With less than average amount of yellow on wings and tail	8
With average amount of yellow on wings and tail	27
With more than average amount of yellow on wings and tail	56