

Characters: generally similar to *Mirafra cantillans marginata*, with which it occurs, but very much darker rufous; the color of the upperparts of the adult being a deep, rich, somewhat brownish-purple, shade of rufous; not dull earth brown and grayish black as in *marginata*. *M. candida* has no grayish or true blackish markings, the dark centers of the crown feathers being fuscous brown, those of the back feathers deep chocolate brown with lighter margins. When compared with *marginata*, the characters stand out at first glance, *candida* being a rich rufous chocolate bird, *marginata* being a blackish and earth brown one.

The immature plumage of *candida* resembles that of *marginata* but is much more rufous on the remiges, nape, and back.

Measurements of type: wing 80; tail 55.5; culmen from base 13.5; tarsus 20; hind toe without claw 6.5; claw 5.2 mm.

Remarks: *Mirafra candida* is obviously related to *Mirafra cantillans*, although very distinct in color, and were it not for the fact that it occupies the same area as a race of the latter, I would have been inclined to call them conspecific.

The fact that the adult bird is in molt indicates that it had finished breeding. Larks have but one complete annual molt, and as the present specimen is molting the remiges, there can be no doubt that it is in the complete or postnuptial molt.—HERBERT FRIEDMANN, *U. S. Nat. Museum, Washington, D. C.*

Interesting Case of Albinism.—An interesting study in albinism was offered by a female Bronzed Grackle (*Quiscalus quiscula aeneus*) which came into the back yard of my Indiana home in company with about forty others December 17, 1912. The flock remained throughout the greater part of the day attracted by the well stocked food and water dishes. Apparently this same flock came almost daily to my yard from December 17 to 31 affording ample opportunity for observation. The head of this "white blackbird" was light gray; the beak yellowish gray; the neck, back, breast and most of the underparts were gray spotted with black; wings pure white, two black primaries in the left wing and one black primary in the right wing; the tail pure white with one black feather in the right center; feet and tarsus dingy dark gray; eyes milky white like those of a roan horse, the right eye being the more staring and conspicuous. The bird might have been blind had not her actions shown her to be gifted with sight. She picked up food bits readily, bathed, preened her feathers and when knocked off the fence by another female, promptly came back and knocked off another Grackle—not the offending bird, however.

Sex was indicated by the actions of the other members of the flock.—**ETTA S. WILSON, 9077 Clarendon Ave., Detroit, Mich.**

Five Song Sparrows Raised with a Cowbird.—On April 29, 1930, by the Olentangy River west of our home in Columbus, Ohio, I found a nest containing five eggs of the Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia melodia*) and one of the Cowbird (*Molothrus ater ater*). None of the eggs had hatched at 5 P. M. May 4, but all had done so the following day. On May 12 between 8:35 and 10:35 the female fed 28 times and the male 21 (the latter

had been banded April 10). This amounted to fewer meals per capita than two other two hour records I have for broods of seven day Song Sparrows, each containing four birds: on July 14, 1929 between 7:47 and 9:47 11 meals were brought by the female and 33 by the male; on May 12, 1930 between 2:50 and 4:50 30 meals were brought by the female and 16 by the male (the male was the same, but the females were different birds).

In the afternoon of this same day I banded and weighed the brood. The Song Sparrows weighed 13.5, 14, 14.2, 14.8 and 16.5 grams respectively; the Cowbird 24.5 grams. The average weight of these Song Sparrows—14.6 grams—compares favorably with that of another brood of four of the same age, namely 15 grams.

At 5 P. M. May 14 the six were in the nest, but all left the next morning at the normal age of ten days. It seemed to me a notable achievement for a pair of Song Sparrows to raise five of their own young plus a Cowbird. The fact that the latter did not hatch earlier than the others deprived it of any initial advantage and undoubtedly contributed to the happy outcome.—MARGARET M. NICE, *Columbus, Ohio*.

Evening Grosbeak in Delaware.—From April 12 until May 5, 1930 I had four Evening Grosbeaks (*Hesperiphona vespertina*) on my lawn, three males and one female. I have studied birds in Delaware for quite a number of years but have never seen this species before. The birds seemed to feed on silver maple and Norway spruce trees. Dr. Witmer Stone tells me that so far as he is aware this constitutes the first record of the bird for the state of Delaware although it has occurred farther south in New Jersey.—ETHEL W. BRADY, *Middletown, Del.*

Lapland Longspur in Somerset County, New Jersey, in April.—On April 5, at Lammington (near Somerville), N. J., I discovered a Lapland Longspur (*Calcarius lapponicus*), among a flock of Horned Larks (*Otocoris alpestris alpestris*), in a plowed field.

As I was watching the Larks with my glasses, while they crept about among the stubble, I noticed a smaller, darker, bird whose manner of walking,—as well as the difference in size and color, immediately distinguished it from the Larks. It was a male Lapland Longspur,—and an extremely well marked bird;—I was able to study it within about 8 feet, and saw distinctly the prominent chestnut collar around the back of the neck, the black cheeks and throat, and the light-coloured bill; the greyish-black streaked back, and the white outer-tail feathers and white underparts, streaked on the sides with black. As it flew it uttered a harsh chattering note, strikingly different from the soft call of the Horned Larks.

This field seems to be especially favored, ornithologically;—last year I found Upland Plover, Henslow's Sparrows and Prairie Horned Larks (*Otocoris alpestris praticola*), nesting in the immediate area; and it was while searching for a possible nest of the last named species that I found the Longspur.