

Notes on the Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) in the Northern Parts of its North American Range.—Mr. W. J. Brown, of Montreal, observed a pair of Starlings nesting at Metis, Matane County, Quebec, on the south shore of the St. Lawrence estuary, in the early summer of 1929. The nest was built in a deserted Flicker's hole in a birch tree and contained large young when examined by Mr. Brown on June 15, 1929. The residents of the farm on which this nest was situated informed Mr. Brown that this pair of Starlings had spent the winter of 1928-1929 about their farm buildings at Metis. Mr. Brown observed a pair of Starlings nesting in the same cavity in the spring of 1930.

At Trois Pistoles, Temiscouata County, Quebec, which is also on the south shore of the St. Lawrence estuary, but is about 62 miles southwest of Metis, I found Starlings scattered rather commonly through the village on January 9, 1931. Altogether about 20 individuals were seen, although all of the village was not visited. There was deep snow on the ground at the time and the weather was fine and moderately cold.

The Starlings were eating the fruits of the mountain ash (*Sorbus americana* Marsh.), which had apparently been abundant on ornamental trees in the village in the autumn, but were becoming scarce at the time of my observations. I was told that much of the local crop of these fruits had been eaten by Pine Grosbeaks (*Pinicola enucleator leucura*), but I saw none of these birds. Competitors with the Starlings for the fruits at the time of my visit to Trois Pistoles were Bohemian Waxwings (*Bombycilla garrula*), a small flock of which was present. Both Starlings and Waxwings, sometimes separately, but often in close company, were seen eating chiefly fruits that had fallen on the surface of the snow as a result of earlier feasts in the branches above, for very few fruits remained on the trees. Although the two species of birds were thus in direct and rather keen competition for winter food, neither one was seen to interfere directly with the other.

On April 18, 1931, I saw a pair of Starlings at Bic, Rimouski County, Quebec, between Trois Pistoles and Metis and about 28 miles northeast of the former.

On making further inquiries concerning a report that Mr. P. A. Taverner had received and had kindly transmitted to me, I have been informed by Major L. S. Dear, of Port Arthur, Ontario, on the north shore of Lake Superior, that there are several credible reports of Starlings in that vicinity and that at least one specimen has been obtained and preserved. A resident of Port Arthur who had been familiar with the Starling in England informed Major Dear that a pair of Starlings tried to nest in a hole in his frame house at Port Arthur in the summer of 1930, but gave up the attempt after a few days, as the hole was too small for them.

Rev. A. Greaves, of Murillo, Ontario, about ten miles west of Port Arthur, published in the 'Times-Journal,' a newspaper of Fort William, Ontario, near Port Arthur, on January 22, 1931, a statement that he had seen two Starlings in Fort William on the previous day. He had been

familiar with the Starling in England. Mr. Greaves later informed Major Dear that he had seen three Starlings at his residence at Murillo on April 6, 1931.

From Mr. T. W. Love, of Fort William, Major Dear learned that a Starling had been picked up dead in one of the city parks of Fort William on or about February 1, 1931, and that it had been mounted and was preserved at the Heath Street School, Fort William. On May 14, 1931, Major Dear examined this specimen and verified its identification as *Sturnus vulgaris*.

Port Arthur and Fort William are in latitude 48° 27' N., Trois Pistoles is in latitude 48° 8' N., and Metis is in latitude 48° 38' N.

As a summer resident the Starling is now abundant at Ottawa, Ontario, and common at Quebec, Quebec. It winters in both of these cities in reduced numbers.—HARRISON F. LEWIS, *National Parks, Ottawa, Canada*.

Western Meadowlark at Battle Creek, Michigan.—On May 28, 1931 I visited the farm of A. H. Gorsline east of Battle Creek, where during the past few years, the Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*) has been found. I was hoping to find that this bird had returned. As I stopped the car beside the alfalfa field a clear bell-like voice attracted my attention. The voice resembled that of the Baltimore Oriole but was louder and more bell like, resembling also the song of the Wood Thrush. The bird proved to be a Western Meadowlark (*Sturnella n. neglecta*).

The following day Mrs. Alfred Steinel, who spent most of her early life in the middle west and knew the bird in that location, visited the field and identified it at once. We visited the location again on June 2 and found the male bird singing in the same field. However, shortly after this the alfalfa was cut and the Meadowlark disappeared.—LAWRENCE H. WALKINSHAW, *Battle Creek, Mich.*

Orchard Oriole in the Adirondacks.—The writer observed, on July 8, 1927, an Orchard Oriole feeding a young bird at the Owaisa Club, Wilmington, N. Y. Since this locality—only a short distance from Whiteface Mountain—is near, or at, the northern extremity of the range of the bird as recorded in Eaton's Birds of New York, the instance is probably worth reporting.—WILLIAM VOGT, *Hastings-on-Hudson, N. Y.*

Icterus pustulatus, a New Bird to the A. O. U. Check-List.—On May 1, 1931, a male Scarlet-headed Oriole (*Icterus pustulatus*), in first year plumage, was collected at Murray Dam, near La Mesa, San Diego County, California, by Frank F. Gander, a member of the staff of the San Diego Natural History Museum.

The capture of this specimen constitutes the first record within the United States boundary and adds another semi-tropical wanderer to the A. O. U. 'Check-List.' The normal range of the species is western and southern Mexico, north as far as Tecoripa, Sonora (van Rossem, *Trans. San Diego Soc. Nat. Hist.*, Vol. VI, No. 19, p. 389, 1931).