

an average of six to eight inches of snow. A strong northwest wind was blowing and it was possible to approach within a few feet of most of the birds as I walked slowly from one end of the manured area to the other. The seven species present and my combined counts and estimates of the number of each follow: Ring-necked Pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus torquatus*), 1 ♂; Northern Horned Lark (*Otocoris a. alpestris*), 100±; Prairie Horned Lark (*Otocoris alpestris praticola*), 20±; Eastern Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna magna*), 4; Eastern Red-wing (*Agelaius p. phoeniceus*), 2 ♂'s and 1 ♀; Lapland Longspur (*Calcarius l. lapponicus*), 3; Eastern Snow Bunting (*Plectrophenax n. nivalis*), 150+.

Seldom is it possible in this territory to see at one time, on such a small area so many individuals of so many species of birds. The early local spring occurrence of the Eastern Meadowlark and the Eastern Red-wing, particularly the female, also is noteworthy.

The temperature at the time of my observations was 35 degrees Fahrenheit, with a maximum of 37 and a minimum of 18 degrees for the day. Maximal and minimal temperatures for the five preceding days had been close to these ranges. Precipitation had not occurred during the 36 hours immediately preceding these observations. However, between March 7 and 12, inclusive, a little more than 17 inches of snow had fallen. As a consequence, most of the food that was available on the ground for the bird species indicated was completely covered and had remained so despite some reduction in the amount of snow through melting.

For most of the weeks preceding the series of snowstorms, the ground had been largely bare and the available food supply for birds exposed. As a consequence, such ordinarily gregarious species as Horned Larks, Snow Buntings and Longspurs had been more or less generally dispersed throughout the local territory. But, with a heavy snowfall distributed over five successive days, that food supply was no longer accessible. Probably in their food-searching wanderings the birds were first attracted to the manured area by its dark appearance against the expansive white background. Having stopped to investigate, they found both food and shelter; and, by accretions from similar exploring groups or individuals the assemblage grew until it attained the unusual proportions just described.

A visit to the same spot the next day revealed a much diminished bird population on the area now considerably increased in size by the further distribution of manure. On this occasion the temperature was 42 degrees Fahrenheit, with maximum for the preceding 24 hours, 45 degrees, minimum 24 degrees. The snow on many of the exposed slopes had now melted, again revealing expansive though still restricted feeding areas. Evidently the diminution in the bird population on the fertilized tract had been associated in turn with the birds' response to the now more generally available food supply.—DAYTON STONER, *New York State Museum, Albany, New York.*

Banded birds recovered in El Salvador.—Three records of birds banded in the United States and recovered in El Salvador have recently been received and seem of sufficient importance to warrant immediate publication.

DUCK HAWK, *Falco peregrinus anatum.*—Duck Hawk 38-646340, an immature female banded September 27, 1940, at Cedar Grove, Wisconsin, by Owen J. Gromme, was shot January 21, 1941, at Acajutla, El Salvador. This seems to be the first specimen taken in the country and it is interesting that it was at the same locality as the bird recorded by Salvin in the 'Biologia Centrali-Americana.'

HERRING GULL, *Larus argentatus smithsonianus*.—A young bird (37-658725) banded July 4, 1940, at Penikese Island, Massachusetts, by Laurence B. Fletcher was "caught" at La Libertad, El Salvador, on January 27, 1941. This is apparently the first record for the species in El Salvador.

EASTERN WHITE-WINGED DOVE, *Melopelia asiatica asiatica*.—During the summer of 1940, Dr. George B. Saunders banded nearly eight hundred nestling White-winged Doves in the Rio Grande valley in Texas. Dove 40-419215, banded near Mission, July 31, 1940, was killed near San Salvador, El Salvador, October 15, 1940. According to the account of this species given by Dickey and Van Rossem ('The Birds of El Salvador,' Field Museum of Natural History, 1938), this recovery constitutes the first definite proof that some of the White-winged Doves of El Salvador are migratory.—MAY THACHER COOKE, *U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D. C.*

Ticks affecting birds' eyesight.—One afternoon in November 1936, as I stood under an oak-tree in my garden, a Slate-colored Junco fluttered to my head, thence to my shoulder, and then made an uncertain way along my arm. This was not a tame bird, but a nearly blind bird that could not distinguish between person and tree. Its misfortune was plainly due to the huge tick that was fastened just below the right eye, and that flopped and swung with every turn of the head. In March 1940, I saw another Slate-colored Junco (*Junco hyemalis hyemalis*) nearly blinded by a large tick below the left eye. This bird hopped and fluttered through a long flower border, saw well enough to keep just beyond my reach, but was loath to fly. Both these birds were easy prey for predators, and if they escaped quick killing must eventually have lost all vision and died of starvation.

In my four years of banding (starting February, 1937) I have trapped an even score of birds carrying ticks, and in every case I removed the parasites. Only a few of these birds were re-captured, but from their records it seems safe to conclude that if a tick is removed before damage to the eye has progressed too far, the bird recovers sight; and it seems equally reasonable to suppose that if the bird were allowed to retain the tick it would finally reach the condition of the juncos cited above. The ticks taken from two Slate-colored Juncos caught on January 29, 1941, were identified by Dr. H. E. Ewing, U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C., as *Ixodes* sp. The tick family, Ixodidae, of which the dog tick is a type, has been regarded as a mammalian parasite, bird-infesting ticks belonging to the family Argasidae.

In every case but one, the ticks were very near an eye. The exception was Eastern Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos polyglottos*) no. 39-209852, banded October 30, 1939, who had claimed for his winter territory the area north of our house. When re-trapped January 5, 1940, he had a slight puffiness above the right eye, but I could see no cause for trouble. Bitter weather set in, the Mockingbird was regularly fed, and it was February 22 before he was again caught. Then his right eye was sunken and shriveled, and the cheek inflamed. Above the eye and back near the crown of the head (like an unnatural horn) was a medium-sized tick—roughly, about the size of a navy bean. Lifting the feathers, I found another tick, smaller, on the opposite side of the head, but it did not appear to have affected the left eye. I smeared both ticks with olive oil, and using small tweezers pulled them off, including the heads; and putting more oil on the inflamed areas, released the bird. The next day he moped, for once allowed smaller birds to eat at his tray. On the second day he was restored in