

(1941, "The Pigeon," p. 301) state the cause of the inability to extrude an egg (egg-binding) may be due to: inflammatory or infection of the oviduct or cloaca (*Salpingitis*), a stricture or tumor in it, or its prolapse; a malformed, over-sized or soft shelled egg; and in younger birds the egg passage may not have developed enough to accommodate a normal egg.

Karl Plath of the Chicago Zoological Society, Brookfield, Illinois, in conversation said that chilly weather is conducive to egg-binding.

Probably an egg-bound condition in Mourning Doves is uncommon, but possibly it is one of the many minor mortality factors.

I wish to thank Dr. A. L. Rand of the Chicago Natural History Museum for help in this study.—CHARLES W. KOSSACK, 715 Division Street, Barrington, Illinois.

**Starling at Vanderhoof, British Columbia.**—In the autumn of 1953, relatively large numbers of Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) appeared in the Lakes District, a small farming community 10 miles south of Vanderhoof, British Columbia. The birds were first detected early in the morning of September 17 by Mrs Edward Dickson, who reported to me by telephone a few minutes later that a flock of "short-tailed, white-spotted blackbirds" was in a grove of aspens close to her house. When I arrived at the Dickson farm shortly afterwards, a compact flock of approximately 120 Starlings was located on an oatfield where the grain was in shock. The birds were restless, flying from one part of the field to another, and did not permit me to approach within shot-gun range. On September 18, a flock of 60 alighted in several cottonwood trees at a place about 2 miles east of the Dickson farm. From the cottonwoods, the Starlings flew to an adjacent field, which had recently been ploughed and foraged there until I walked towards them, when all flew off together and disappeared from view. At about the same time, other flocks were reported by local residents on the Dickson farm and elsewhere. Subsequently, until I left the district on September 30, Starlings were noted daily and the total population was estimated to be approximately 250. Usually they were in small flocks numbering up to 25 individuals, but on one occasion, September 28, a flock of 75 was recorded. Information was received later that flocks had been seen in November and in January and March, 1954. None was observed by me during the period May 20 to June 6, 1954.

The stomachs of seven specimens collected in September, 1953, of which five were birds of the year, contained pulp and pits of choke cherry *Prunus* sp., exclusively.

An unusual feature of this invasion is the relatively large number of individuals involved. Earlier records of the species in British Columbia were of single birds, nesting pairs, and small numbers accompanying flocks of Red-wings or Brewer Blackbirds (Munro, Murrelet, 34, (2): 15-17).

Another point of interest is in the locality concerned. The Lakes District is approximately eight miles south of the 54th parallel of latitude. The nearest locality of reported occurrence is Williams Lake, some 180 air-line miles to the southeast.

The place of origin of these Starlings is a matter for speculation. In this connection it may be pointed out that some elements of the central British Columbia bird population, e.g., Purple Finch, White-throated Sparrow, Clay-colored Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, and others, enter the region from the east—not from the south where these species are but casual migrants. Most certainly there exists an east-west migration route into and from this part of British Columbia. Perhaps it may be inferred, then, that the Starling invasion reported above originated in prairie farming communities east of the Rocky Mountains. J. A. MUNRO, *Okanagan Landing, British Columbia.*