

The European Starling at Urbana, Illinois.—The introduction of any exotic species of animal affords the student of migration phenomena an interesting opportunity to study the subsequent dispersal of the species. Such a chance is afforded at the present time to bird students of the Middle West by the slow but persistent advance westward of the European Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*). The range and dispersal of the species, from the nucleus liberated in New York City in 1890-91, to and including the year 1922, is summarized by Mary T. Cooke in Circular 336 of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. This summary includes one record only from Illinois, and even at the present time, Illinois still remains very close to the periphery of the range of the Starling. However, new records have steadily been accumulating recently, and it is with a view of keeping those interested in the movements of the Starling informed as to the activity of the birds that the following notes are published. In no case is there any doubt as to the authenticity of the record, the observers in all cases being perfectly familiar with the Starling from ornithological work done in the East.

1. March 19, 1926. One lone Starling was seen in the cemetery south of the campus of the University of Illinois. The bird kept by itself, though flocks of Bronzed Grackles were near at hand. Record by A. S. Hyde.

2. April 3, 1926. A small flock of eight or nine Starlings, roosting in the University forestry preserve, in company with large flocks of Bronzed Grackles. Birds not segregated. Record by Dr. L. J. Thomas and A. R. Cahn.

3. April 5, 6, 7, and 8, 1926. During this time twenty-six Starlings were seen in the forestry preserve. Some of these may be duplicate records, or re-counts, but on the 7th seventeen birds were seen under conditions in which no duplication was possible. The birds were associated with flocks of Bronzed Grackles, Red-winged Blackbirds and Cowbirds. Record by A. R. Cahn.

4. April 11, 1926. One lone Starling was seen along the Salt Fork River, south of the University woods. This bird was much interested in an old woodpecker's hole about eighty feet up in a dead cottonwood. It was first seen coming out of the hole, but was never again seen in the vicinity, although the tree was carefully watched. Record by A. S. Hyde.

5. April 16, 1926. Two Starlings were seen flying over a pasture about a quarter of a mile from the previously mentioned cottonwood tree. Record by A. S. Hyde.

6. April 18, 1926. Five Starlings, scattered in a flock of Red-winged Blackbirds and Cowbirds, were seen near the cemetery. Record by A. R. Cahn.

7. April 21, 1926. Four Starlings were seen near strip mines, four miles south of Danville. The birds were entirely alone. Record by A. R. Cahn.

8. November 10, 1926. Five Starlings were seen in a flock of grackles in the forestry preserve. Record by A. R. Cahn.

9. November 14, 1926. Several Starlings were seen with a flock of grackles in the cemetery south of the University campus. Record by A. R. Cahn.

10. May 10, 1927. A flock of a dozen or more Starlings were seen in a wooded pasture north of Brownfield Woods. Record by A. S. Hyde.

11. May 12, 1927. A lone Starling was seen in a maple tree in front of the Natural History Building, on the campus of the University. Record by A. R. Cahn.

12. July 3, 1927. Lone Starling flying northeast across the residence district of Urbana. Record by A. S. Hyde.

13. November 14, 1927. A flock of eight or ten Starlings flew south, flying low over the fields west of Bondville, Champaign County. Record by A. S. Hyde.

14. November 16, 1927. Two Starlings in with a flock of about twenty Bronzed Grackles were seen in the residence district of Urbana. Record by A. R. Cahn.

15. November 19, 1927. Three Starlings were seen flying south over the Brownfield woods region. Record by A. S. Hyde.

16. December 3, 1927. Three Starlings were seen separately in the forestry preserve. The birds were very tame and were approached to within twenty feet and examined for over ten minutes with high power binoculars. Record by A. R. Cahn.

The only previously published records from the territory covered in this note are those of Prof. Frank Smith (*Illinois Audubon Bulletin*, Spring, 1922), who reported seven Starlings from Urbana on February 19, 1922. There were no Starlings seen by anyone connected with the University between this date and the first of the records offered herewith, in spite of the fact that bird students were constantly in the field. The note by Mr. Hunt (*Auk*, xliii, p. 239) reporting four Starlings from Oak Park, Illinois, for December, 1925, is the most recent record for the state which the writer has come across. It would seem, then, as if the Starlings were beginning a more determined effort to extend their range into Illinois, the results of which should be carefully watched by bird students.—A. R. CAHN, *University of Illinois, Urbana, Ill.*

The Fall Bird Migration in Ohio.—The high tide of the fall migration in Tuscarawas County, Ohio, is between September 15 and October 1. With a sparrow wave in October, any night between the above dates the call notes are to be heard, unless we have a night wind in the S. E. to S. The most favorable nights follow several warm days, with S. E. to S. W. winds changing to cooler N. W. to N. wind; and if cloudy the birds fly much lower and their call notes are more distinct. On some of the more favorable nights there are but few intervals in which call notes are not to be heard. The call notes of the birds, and the few occasions when we have seen them transit the moon, indicate their traveling in groups. Can we judge the numbers in these groups by the numbers we find in groups in the fields and woods, after an all night flight? The line of migration in Tuscarawas County, with some exceptions, is N. W. to S. E. for the fall migration, and from S. E. to N. W. in the spring migration for the ducks, geese, swans, herons and the shore birds. For the land birds we have not sufficient data to check their course. The well marked exceptions to the S. E. movement in the fall are the Nighthawks, Crows, Red-winged Blackbirds, Bronzed Grackles and Robins. Their line of migration is S. W. in the fall and N. E. in the spring. In Delaware County, one hundred miles west, they hold to the S. W. and N. E. line. The land, water, and shore birds hold to a North and South line, and seem to follow the Scioto Valley.—CHARLES R. WALLACE, *Delaware, Ohio.*

A Durable Barn Swallow's Nest.—There is a nest of the Barn Swallow (*Hirundo erythrogastra*) in my barn. It is plastered onto a cross-beam two inches below the hay loft floor, just out of reach of my hand and entirely impossible for cats. It was built there in May, 1915, and has been occupied and a brood of swallows has been raised in it every year since then. In 1926 two broods were raised in it by the same pair of swallows. It has never been possible to