

sidered since it is reported in the neighboring states of Colorado (1931. A. O. U. Check-List, 4th Ed., p. 53) and Nebraska (1945. Haecker, Moser, and Swenk, *Nebraska Bird Rev.*, 13:7). Harris (1919. *Trans. Acad. Sci. St. Louis*, 23:237) listed Barrow's Golden-eye as a "very rare winter visitant" in the Kansas City region. He mentions only two "authentic" records. Since, however, his list of birds for this region include some observations made in Douglas County, Kansas, his statement may have been based at least in part on the misidentified specimens.

Long (1940. *Trans. Kansas Acad. Sci.*, 43:438) designated the American Golden-eye as "an uncommon migrant throughout the state." Actually, this species appears to be a regular winter resident although occurring usually in small numbers.—WILLIAM B. STALLCUP, *University of Kansas Museum of Natural History, Lawrence, Kansas, May 28, 1951.*

Birds becoming "caught" in flocks of other species.—Under this caption, in two recent issues of *British Birds* (1950, 43:332-333; 1951, 44:197-201), several observers have reported instances in which single birds, or small groups, of one species, (1) when flushed with a flock of another species, apparently were unable to break away and instead were impelled against their usual flight habits to follow the maneuvers of the preponderant species; (2) seemed to join flocks of a different species voluntarily and participate in their flights. Some incidents recorded by Selous (1905. "Bird Life Glimpses," pp. 60, 127) and several in the *Auk* (1933, 50:211, 355-356) appear to be earlier examples of the second type.

In suburban Baltimore I have seen one occurrence resembling the first type. On the evening of September 21, 1949, I found some hundreds of Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*) and a number of Purple Grackles (*Quiscalus quiscula*) in a park wood. Repeatedly, when the Starlings made mass flights from treetops out over the wood and back, some of the grackles took off, circled, and came back with them. Finally, a single great exodus toward a roost one-half mile away cleared the wood of all the birds.

Four times between December 7, 1949, and January 17, 1950, also in suburban Baltimore, I saw Starlings flying with a flock of Rock Doves (*Columba livia*) that usually numbered around 40. Only once did I see the entire incident. That time the pigeons left their loafing roof, made one great circle in the air, and alighted again. Just after they rose, a loose band of 10 or 12 Starlings appeared near them. One of the Starlings entered or was swept up by the fore-edge of the flock of pigeons and flew there through half of the circle before sheering away. On the other three occasions the flying flock was already a mixed one when I sighted it. Once there were 9 Starlings, in two groups, in the fore-edge, and they stayed there, as much a part of the flock formation as the pigeons themselves, during two or three great curves that the birds made. Again, I was just in time to see 3 Starlings drop out of the flying flock. Once, in a flock that I glimpsed for a few seconds, there were 13 Starlings and only 8 pigeons; I saw less than one-fourth of a large circle made that time.

Although the circumstances of the first Starling-pigeon incident suggest "entrapment," the repeated occurrence of these mixed flocks suggests voluntary association. It may be significant that all of the Starling-pigeon incidents noted occurred at about 8 a.m., when the Starlings had only recently arrived at my observation point, 5 miles airline from their downtown roosts. Possibly these birds were still under the influence of their dispersal-flight impulse. Similarly, the grackles of my first observation were keyed for a flight to a roost.—HERVEY BRACKBILL, *4608 Springdale Avenue, Baltimore 7, Maryland, June 29, 1951.*