

the case of the Trumpeter every single bird must be left unmolested if this magnificent species is not to follow the Great Auk and the Labrador Duck to the oblivion of extinction.—HOYES LLOYD.

THE STARLING AT HAMILTON.—On January 10, 1923, I succeeded in satisfactorily identifying a couple of Starlings in our garden, which is just three blocks from the main corner of Hamilton.

These two birds have been seen about here for some three or four weeks. But, although one day I got a good look at one from in front and below, so as to see his black breast and yellow bill quite distinctly, it was not till January 10 that I was able to observe one thoroughly from above and with a side view. It was eating an apple still hanging to the tree; and from a distance of 15 feet I could distinctly see the yellow bill, the black head with dark cheek and eye, the speckled back and wings and the short tail, so that I have now no doubt of its identity.—CALVIN MCQUESTEN.

NOTES ON PRAIRIE WARBLER AND STARLING.—*Dendroica discolor* (Prairie Warbler).—In Vol. XXXVI, No. 9, of *The Canadian Field-Naturalist*, I gave an account of the Prairie Warbler summering at Nottawasaga Beach, Georgian Bay. In the summer of 1923 this bird was very scarce, no doubt due to the unusually late season, ice being piled up on the shore as late as June 10th. This retarded growth and kept the temperature below normal in the district where the Prairie Warbler commonly breeds. On June 14th, after a long search, we discovered a nest containing three fresh eggs and two of the Cowbird. The nest was in a large patch of Juniper, well concealed, two feet above the ground on the outer branch of one of the bordering Junipers. This nest and eggs are, I believe, the first to be taken in Canada.

*Sturnus vulgaris* (Starling).—On December 3rd, 1922, at West Toronto, Dr. Starr and myself saw five of these birds. It was not until December 19th, 1923, that this species was again observed. Mr. J. S. Baillie was driving with me along a road north of Toronto when a large flock of birds attracted our attention. At first glance they appeared to be Meadowlarks, but on closer inspection they proved to be Starlings. There were approximately one hundred in the flock and they were exceedingly wary. This same day we also saw two Flickers, feeding on the ground, and a Migrant Shrike and heard a Bluebird.—PAUL HARRINGTON.

OCCURRENCE OF THE STARLING IN THE MONTREAL DISTRICT.—My first introduction to this

species occurred on April 21st, 1923, when I saw three individuals about a group of elm trees in an old field bordering a country road a short distance from St. Lambert.

Some Junco-like notes first drew my attention to one of the birds, as it squatted lengthwise, wings aflutter, on a limb forty feet from the ground. These notes (song?) can be fairly accurately imitated by a sucking motion of the tongue in contact with the roof of the mouth.

Presently the bird took flight, followed by two others, when the striking similarity to the flight of the Meadowlark was apparent.

Later I had opportunity to observe the peculiar plumage and the long, straight bill which suggests the bill of a Woodpecker in its general appearance.

These birds were again noted on April 28th and on other occasions thereafter, and I have no doubt that they bred in the vicinity, as a single bird, apparently a juvenile, was seen there on September 30th.

Another report, coming from Montreal South, about two miles from St. Lambert, indicates that at least one flock of Starlings is wintering here. This flock, numbering seven individuals, was seen repeatedly until January 6th by Mr. W. Morgan, of Montreal South, and another gentleman who had been familiar with the Starling in England. Mr. Morgan told me, moreover, that two pairs of Starlings reared their young during the past summer in a small tower on top of his neighbor's house.

In addition to these records Mr. Napier Smith saw an individual on the outskirts of the City, near Verdun, about the 15th of May last.—L. MCI. TERRILL.

A BAT ACTIVE IN WINTER.—On January 29th, 1923, when coming home from work about 5.30 p.m., I was looking around to see if I could locate the Screech Owl that lives in our neighborhood in London, Ontario, and which is frequently to be seen just about dusk in some of the trees near the park. I was very much surprised indeed to see instead a bat fly between the trees, go across the road and finally disappear over the way. The temperature at the time was 16° and during the night went to 1° below zero, Fahrenheit. It would certainly find no insects flying around that night and one can only presume that it must have been disturbed from its winter sleep and started out into the world not knowing the conditions that there awaited it.—E. M. S. DALE.





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