

Neumayer, *Intenr. Polar-forsch.*, I, 1891, Appendix p. 101). H. F. Moeschler brought it repeatedly into trade during most of the different seasons from Labrador (catalogues from 1854 to 1880). Macoun says that specimens are known from Davis Strait (I, p. 85), and Winge also states that this species has been taken many times in western Greenland (*Groenlands Fugle*, 1898, p. 78). On the other hand, Missionary Perrett

noted only one occurrence at Maggovik. I received the skin of a juvenile male of September, 1904, at Hoffenthal, the same place where Townsend and Allen also saw two specimens (1907, p. 328).

My specimen has the following measurements:
Wing: 257 mm. Tail: 125. Bill: 52. Tarsi 42. Middle toe including the 7 mm. long claw: 52 mm.

(To be continued)

NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

FURTHER NOTE ON THE BRONZED GRACKLE AS A FISHERMAN.—I might add a recent observation to the interesting notes of Messrs. L. L. Snyder and P. A. Taverner which were in the February, 1928, issue of *The Naturalist*. On March the 24th, I saw some twenty Bronzed Grackles on the sandy bank of a small stream flowing into Grenadier Pond, High Park, Toronto. They were busily stabbing at something in the shallow water at the edge. Through my glasses I could see that each bird was making a little pile on the sand of that which he took from the water. I watched the nearest bird until he had gathered several together and was about to eat them, as I had seen his fellows do with their piles. Making a great commotion, I frightened all the birds away and examined the intended lunch. It consisted of several specimens of the Amphipod *Gammarus fasciatus* Say*. These are freshwater Crustaceans living on the bottoms of small streams. They are brownish in colour, about $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch long, with laterally flattened bodies, and swim from the deeper water to bask in the sun in the shallower. And here they were interrupted by the Grackles.—LORUS J. MILNE.

Determined by Dr. E. M. Walker, Royal Ontario Museum of Zoology.

FURTHER NOTES ON THE STARLING IN ONTARIO.—The object of the following remarks is to place on record two instances of the occurrence of the Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) in Ontario, which extend considerably northward of the range of this species in this province.

On the map showing the distribution of the Starling in Ontario as known at May, 1926, appearing in Harrison F. Lewis's excellent and timely publication*, the most northern record of its occurrence in the province is given as at Orillia in Simcoe county. No further extension of its range northward was reported until February 15, 1927, when a notice appeared in the *Toronto Globe* of that date by Dr. J. W. Marshall of Thessalon, Algoma district, in which he reports a Starling

having been found dead at Thessalon about February 10. The bird was turned over to him for identification and was sent to the store of O. Spanner and Co., Toronto, where it was mounted and subsequently returned to its owner. Dr. Marshall stated that the bird was found on a day on which the thermometer registered 42° below zero. The appearance of this Starling in mid-winter so far north of the known range of the species (Thessalon being approximately 230 miles northwest of Orillia) is remarkable. Since no further reports of Starlings have been received from Thessalon or vicinity, the above occurrence can only be considered as accidental.

At North Bay, however, which is approximately 120 miles due north of Orillia, the Starling appeared for the first time in the spring of 1927 and by so doing constituted a clear case of a considerable northward extension of range. I am indebted to Mr. C. Ramsay, of the Normal School, North Bay, for the information which enables me to place this occurrence on record. Mr. Ramsay, in a letter to me dated April 2, 1928, says: "... during the spring of 1927 I came across seven pairs of Starlings, nesting in places just outside of the city. Two nests were in old flickers' holes in telegraph poles, the others in holes in old elm trees. I cannot say whether they have spent the winter here. I have seen none in the city..." Mr. William Ricker informs me that he and Mr. Ramsay saw a flock of 10 Starlings near North Bay in mid-September, after which none were seen.

Mr. Lewis (*loc. cit.*) has recorded a flock of 500 to 600 Starlings, noted at Beamsville, Lincoln county, on April 5, 1926, by J. I. Merritt, as the largest flock of these birds to be reported anywhere in Ontario up to that time. A flock of about the same size (estimated to contain approximately 500 birds) has been reported to me by Mr. Allan Twining and may be worth recording here in view of the fact that the bird was unknown in Ontario until less than 10 years ago. This

flock was observed by Mr. Twining one evening about September 1, 1927, at Orr lake, Simcoe county, going to roost in the marsh there. At the time Grackles were present in immense flocks, by the thousands, but the flock of Starlings did not mingle to any extent with them, although other small parties of Starlings were seen associating with the flocking blackbirds at the marsh.—JAS. L. BAILLIE, JR., *Royal Ontario Museum of Zoology, Toronto.*

*A *Distributional and Economic Study of the European Starling in Ontario*, Univ. of Toronto Studies, Biological Series, No. 30, Toronto, 1927.

THE SPREAD OF THE EUROPEAN STARLING.—The Starling is spreading in Canada. Every year it is reaching new localities. Never again can the facts of the spread of this species be observed and recorded, for it will undoubtedly hold for all time the territory it gains year by year. Mr. Harrison F. Lewis* records its early spread in a part of Canada. Naturalists everywhere in Canada should watch for the appearance of Starlings, observe their habits, and their migrations if any, study their effect on native species, learn about their food habits, and record their numbers. All information respecting the spread of this species in Canada should be published where it will not be lost, and before it is forgotten. Facts which in themselves appear unimportant may add materially to the scientific knowledge of how this stranger species claims as its own a new territory. Birds of all times have been occupying new territory wherever circumstances favoured them. Here is a modern chance to learn how a species rises to dominance.

Needless to say, facts concerning the increase of the Japanese Starling in western Canada are of equal importance to naturalists.—HOYES LLOYD.

*A *Distributional and Economic Study of the European Starling in Ontario*, published by the Librarian, the University Library, University of Toronto.

BIRD BANDING IN JAPAN.—It has been learned from an address* presented at the Pan-Pacific Educational Conference by S. Uchida, Dr. Agr., Ornithologist to the Department of Animal Industry, Tokyo, Japan, that systematic bird banding has been conducted in Japan since the year 1924.

The manner in which this work is conducted

in Japan is similar to methods used in Canada and the United States, except that no trapping stations have been established in Japan. However, in that country about ten thousand fowlers have been licensed to catch game birds by using traps, nets, etc., and advantage is taken of this practice to secure birds for banding, and to obtain information regarding banded birds that may be trapped.

Interesting returns can be expected from the various countries through which Japanese birds migrate, and it is quite possible that sooner or later some birds will be found in Canada carrying Japanese bands. These bands are of aluminium, inscribed with a number and "NO RIN SHO", signifying the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. If bands of this kind are found in Canada, the finder should report them to the National Parks of Canada Branch, which is in charge of Canadian bird-banding records, and the necessary steps will be taken to report them to the proper Japanese authorities.

From January, 1924, to December, 1926, seventeen thousand four hundred and twenty-eight birds have been banded, with five hundred and fifty-five returns, approximately 3.2 per cent of the banded birds. In 1924, 5,582 birds were banded and 240 returns were received, in 1925, 6,759 banded and 196 returns received, and in 1926, 5,086 banded and 116 returns received.

The following birds have so far been banded in Japan: Grey Heron, ten species of ducks and Mergansers, Water Hen, Quail, Bar-tailed Godwit, Wandering Tattler, Brown-eared Bulbul, Dusky Ouzel, Eye-browed Ouzel, Pale Thrush, and ten species of the genus *Emberiza*, or thirty species in all.—HOYES LLOYD.

*The *Mid-Pacific Magazine*, Vol. XXXIV, No. 4, p. 317.

TRANS-ATLANTIC BANDED PIGEON RECOVERY.—In connection with the keeping of the Official Canadian Record of Wild Bird Banding Returns, the National Parks of Canada Branch, Ottawa, has had brought to its attention an interesting account of a trans-Atlantic pigeon recovery. This pigeon, wearing a band with the inscription "NURP 26 U C 4158", was banded by James Gaw, Newtownards, County Down, North Ireland, and was lost in a race from Penzance, Lands End, England, in June. On June 23, 1927, it was reported shot on the east end of Belle Isle, Newfoundland.—HOYES LLOYD.



Baillie, James Little. 1928. "Further Notes on the Starling in Ontario." *The Canadian field-naturalist* 42(7), 177–178. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.338929>.

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