

clee--ip, clear" rang down through the orchard and across the golf course to the conifer pines and the ears of the rest of its flock, for the next time I looked out of the window, imagine my surprise to see all of a hundred and more grosbeaks all over the place -- on the porch railing, in the trees, on the ground, in the bushes and shrubs and some were close against the cage peering, chirping and seemingly sympathizing with the unfortunate victim.

It was a most spectacular and amusing scene. All the more so since there had been no Evening Grosbeaks in that particular locality previously this year. Unless by mere coincidence, it would otherwise seem that the cries of the captured bird aroused the attention of its flock to the rescue. Banded and released, it followed them back to the hemlock grove - a welcomed "thanksgiving", I am sure!

Ridgway, Pa.

\*\*\*

#### NUPTIAL FLIGHT OF A NORTHERN HORNED LARK

By Christella Butler

While I was calling for my daughter on the Neshaminy High School grounds last March 23rd, I noticed two strange birds and walked slowly toward them. They were not very afraid to be approached and would fly up for only a short distance. Sometimes they would fly off only to circle around and come back to the same spot. They were busy feeding on the ground -- occasionally uttering call notes -- and the male did some singing. I identified them as a pair of Northern Horned Larks.

We watched them for a long time. Sometimes the female would gather bits of nesting material and then abandon it to go back to feeding. Suddenly the male took off straight up into the air. He went straight up like a rocket, using his wings to boost himself higher and higher until he was just barely visible to me. Between boost his wings were folded at his sides.

When he reached his summit he flew about for a short time, then folded his wings and plummeted to earth, opening his wings only a moment before landing on the macadam road. I believe he did a bit of singing as he flew about before his return to the ground, but he was so high the sounds were faint. I had my eyes on the male all the time, but when he landed I noted the female sitting on the ground watching.

I cannot find an account of such a flight in any of my books, and I am wondering if anyone else knows if I am right in assuming this to be a nuptial flight.

1422 Parkland Ave., Parkland, Pa.

\*\*\*