

Observations on the small flocks, and also the large one which congregated in the evening, always revealed great numbers of Starlings in the assemblage—in fact, the Starlings at times seemed to outnumber the Grackles.

In this country the Starling has apparently not learned to migrate as yet, though the species is rapidly spreading as evidenced by numerous reports constantly made farther and farther away from the original place of dispersal (Central Park, N. Y. City).

While in England the Starling seems to be more or less of a resident all the year around, on continental Europe he is a partial migrant, i. e., some birds remaining over the winter, others migrating, for Starlings are said to be found in southern Europe and northern Africa abundantly in the winter, but are quite scarce or totally absent thereabouts during the summer.

The Purple Grackle migrates regularly throughout its range, and the question is raised whether this gregarious association of the Starlings and Grackles may not in time make the Starling a regular migrant as well. He is quite a cosmopolitan fellow and through social relations of this type might easily acquire the habit. Indeed, the recorded occurrences of Starlings from Canada and other places, distant from the original place of dispersal, may have been largely caused by an association of this kind with flocks of migrating, native birds.<sup>1</sup> By joining migrating birds of the eastern coast section, which converge with western and central migrants on the southern range, the Starling may gain an extremely wide dispersal in a comparatively short time; some birds returning over the old route, others remaining in the South, while still others flock with birds returning north along the Mississippi drainage system.—EVERETT C. MYERS, *Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md.*

**Bobolink in Colorado.**—As indicated by Burnett in the October number of 'The Auk,' the Bobolink is considered a rare bird in Colorado. I have often wondered if this is not merely because most ornithologists do not visit localities favorable for them at the right season. For many years I have found males of this species common in pastures immediately east of Boulder during the first week in June, but have not seen the females. Being away from Boulder after that time each year, I have never followed the matter up to ascertain whether the females appear and nest there. However, last summer Mr. Earl Theron Engle found in another meadow near Baseline Reservoir, southeast of Boulder, three males and four or five females, on July 25, 1924. He says the identification of the males was entirely certain, but the females not so certain, though they were with the males. No nests were found, but the date strongly suggests birds which had nested in the vicinity. It seems scarcely likely that the species

<sup>1</sup> Three Starlings were observed July 1, 1924 near University Circle, Cleveland, Ohio.

should come so regularly to one very limited locality and not appear at other localities of similar environment with like regularity. One cannot rely at all upon reports of Bobolinks in Colorado unless they come from persons with some ornithological training, as the Lark Bunting is generally called the Bobolink, its black body and head, its white wing patches, its song, and its habit of rising in the air and singing as it descends being responsible for the erroneous identifications, though the absence of the buff nape and white lower back and tail-coverts readily distinguishes it from the Bobolink.—JUNIUS HENDERSON, *Boulder, Colorado*.

**Domestic Affairs of *Spizella p. passerina*.**—In these troublous days when all the world's awry, when morality among humans is seemingly at its lowest ebb, and when some of our avian friends, such as the House Wren, are charged with unbecoming practices and marital relations not substantiating the time-honored belief that birds mate for life, it is gratifying to turn to the other side of the picture.

In Cohasset, Massachusetts, on May 24, 1923, two Chipping Sparrows were taken together in a pull-string (drop-door) trap and were given numbers 34469 and 34471. At a later date these were found to be mates, 34469 being the female. In an attempt to find a fairly permanent method of coloring bands, and thus making it possible often to identify birds without trapping or handling them, the female's band was stained blue with a diamond dye and then coated with valspar varnish. This experiment was successful for thirty days, by which time the stain had flaked off.

Both Sparrows repeated together on May 25. On June 24, they were taken together again at which period they were frequently together in the trap, after food for their uncontrollable youngsters, calling from an apple tree close to the house. Again on September 5, 1923, after the nesting and molting seasons were over, they were once more captured together and they continued to visit the trap up to the sixteenth of the month, showing that the mating relationship still obtained. The last visit to the trap for the season of 1923 was by the male No. 34471, on September 29, at which time this species occurred in flocks in the neighborhood, no doubt preparatory to migration.

During the nesting season of 1924, Chipping Sparrows were first seen about the banding station the latter part of May, and among them two banded birds were noted for several days. On June first, Mrs. Whittle saw them enter the trap together and their numbers proved to be returns 34469 and 34471. It is not known whether they migrated south together or returned together. When the territory lying between the summer and the winter homes of this species shall be properly organized for bird-banding work, questions of this kind undoubtedly will be answered. From June 1 to August 15, 1924, this pair of birds visited the station daily and usually several times each day, and during this period they have raised two broods of two birds each. In the case of each brood, a few days prior to the termination of the parental relationship, the young birds followed