

**Protective Coloration of Horned Larks.**—On February 7, 1925, in an open field in Guelph township, Ontario, about 55 miles north of Lake Erie, and 47 miles west of Toronto, I saw five Prairie Horned Larks (*O. a. praticola*), my first for the year. They were walking slowly about in some manure which had been scattered lightly over the field, and I was standing on a road adjoining the field and was watching the Larks through 8-power Busch prismatic field-glasses. Suddenly I heard a whistling of wings overhead, looked up, and saw a Sharp-shinned Hawk fly into a tree the foot of which was about 20 or 25 yards from the Larks. The Hawk perched on a branch about 25 or 30 feet up the tree. After the arrival of the Hawk I could no longer distinguish the Larks, although I searched the ground carefully in all directions with my glasses. Nor, apparently, could the Hawk see them, for after waiting about five minutes it flew on to another tree about 150 or 200 yards distant and perched about 25 or 30 feet up for about five minutes. Still the Larks remained indistinguishable during another careful search. About five minutes after the Hawk left the second tree the Larks flew from the exact spot where I had last seen them, singing as they flew, over the place where I was standing, in the direction whence the Hawk had come, and in the exactly opposite direction to that in which it had gone.—HENRY HOWITT, *Guelph, Ontario*.

**Another Record for the Genus *Corvus* in St. Croix.**<sup>1</sup>—In the Proceedings of the U. S. National Museum, vol. 54, Nov. 21, 1918, pp. 521-522, the writer recorded *Corvus leucognaphalus* from the Island of St. Croix, Virgin Islands, on basis of bones collected by Theodoor DeBooy from a kitchen midden near the mouth of Salt River on the north coast. It is of interest to record two broken bits of humeri of this same species in material secured from midden deposits on the Richmond estate, near Christiansted, St. Croix, presented to the U. S. National Museum in 1924, by Mrs. Hugo Hark. It may appear that the Crow was formerly of regular occurrence on St. Croix though not recorded in modern times in the living state east of the Island of Porto Rico.

From these same deposits near Christiansted come leg bones of the extinct rail *Nesotrochis debooyi* Wetmore, associated with a few fragments of *Casmerodius alba*, *Buteo borealis*, *Pandion haliaetus*, *Zenaida zenaida* and *Gallus gallus*. The last named is possible indication that the deposits in question may not be particularly old.—ALEXANDER WETMORE, *U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C.*

**The Starling at Guelph, Ontario.**—My friend, Mr. R. E. Barber of Guelph, a reliable ornithologist of many years' experience, told me recently that in the spring of 1924 he saw a pair of Starlings which had nested and reared a brood in the hole of some Northern Flickers in the dead top of a tree on the lawn of Mr. Halliday on the outskirts of Guelph. It is

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said by Mr. Halliday, who is a taxidermist, that the Starlings were followed later by the returning Flickers who found themselves dispossessed and fought to regain their home, but were unable to oust the Starlings. Am confident this is the first record of Starlings in this locality.—HENRY HOWITT, *Guelph, Ontario*.

**The Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) at Leetonia, Ohio.**—Some time during the previous year (I cannot recall the exact date) I had occasion to enter a barn out in the country near here. In the uppermost part of the barn in each end there was a window and every morning I noticed a strange looking bird flying around there. It gained entrance under the roof for the purpose of roosting overnight, I suppose, and then it became confused and was unable to find the exit. In its efforts to regain its freedom it flew from one window to another with considerable force. When I went out I left the door ajar and thus allowed it to escape. Every morning during the ensuing week this program was repeated. Finally, I decided to try to determine the species. I climbed to the window where it was sitting and captured it. On consulting Reed's 'Bird Guide' I identified it as a Starling, (*Sturnus vulgaris*). In the neighborhood of my home I have recently noticed large flocks of Starlings. The previous year only a few roosted in a certain place but now they congregate in flocks of several hundred. They seem to be increasing as rapidly as did the English Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*). The largest number I have observed in a single flock would be about fifty.—LONY B. STRABALA, *Leetonia, Ohio*.

**Mountain Song Sparrow in Oklahoma.**—A specimen of *Melospiza melodia montana* (formerly *fallax*) has recently been identified for me by Dr. H. C. Oberholser. This bird was collected by me in Canadian County, Oklahoma, Dec. 25, 1913; it is now in the Museum of the University of Oklahoma. This constitutes the first record for this subspecies from the state.—E. D. CRABB, *Ann Arbor, Mich.*

**Winter Habits of the White-throated Sparrow at Chapel Hill, North Carolina.**—During the winter months of 1923-24 a flock of some thirty or more White-throated Sparrows (*Zonotrichia albicollis*) could always be found in the neighborhood of a small wooded ravine near our house. The ravine was perhaps two hundred and fifty yards long and one hundred yards wide and through it flowed a small brook bordered by elms and willows. The slopes of this little valley, with the exception of several weed grown fields, were covered with small bushes, a few scattered cedars and deciduous trees, and thick tangles of honeysuckle vines. From this sheltered haven the White-throats made frequent excursions to the lawns and shrubbery surrounding the houses on the west side of the ravine. On winter mornings it was cheery to hear a few somewhat subdued notes of their sweet and plaintive song. Towards spring the notes became richer and the entire song was given much more frequently.