

be familiar with our common birds and also fairly keen observers. However, since Mr. W. I. Lyon has trapped and banded two Starlings at Waukegon, Ill. on December 27, 1925, there seems to be no doubt whatever about my Oak Park record being correct. For some years past we have been on the lookout for the Starling to reach Chicago, but we hardly expected them to first appear during a winter of much snow and sub-zero temperatures like the present.—CHRESWELL J. HUNT, *Chicago, Ill.*

**Foster Parentage.**—Wishing to learn whether the Cowbird had any inherent adaptability for foster parentage not possessed by other species we tried an experiment involving three kinds of birds.

In one of our nesting boxes, ten feet up on a stake, a Bluebird was sitting on four eggs; a Song Sparrow had her nest with four eggs in a rather exposed position on the ground in a cranberry bog very near our house; in some pine woods nearby a Veery was incubating three eggs; her nest well secreted from any observer, human or otherwise.

We knew that the Bluebird was due to hatch her eggs in a few days and thought that the Sparrow was well along in incubation, the Thrush we were uncertain about; however, on July 6 we took three eggs from the Bluebird, and, using water colors spotted them lightly with brown and gave them to the Sparrow in exchange for three of her eggs.

The remaining Sparrow egg was given to the Thrush.

This last move was made principally to check up on the hatching, it not being convenient to examine the Bluebird's nest.

On the 7th, much to our satisfaction, the Bluebird's eggs were pipped and the Sparrow sitting tight; we immediately examined the Thrush's nest and were surprised to find all the eggs in it at the point of hatching; from this data we knew that the Bluebird's complement must also be coming out.

This was a very fortuitous culmination, as all coming out together not only reduced the liability of neglect or abandonment on the foster mother's part, but also made it much easier for us to keep tab on what happened.

On this day (7th) a hard rain was falling and we only visited the Sparrow and Thrush once. The latter was excessively shy, so much so that never once could we observe her leave the nest.

On the 8th at 7 A. M. the Sparrow had one Bluebird hatched, and both of the remaining eggs pipped clear around their shells. In common prudence no further examinations were made that day beyond driving a stray cat from the vicinity; and right here is where we neglected a most necessary precaution, we should have put a screen of chicken wire net over the Sparrow about a foot above the nest.

On the 9th all was progressing well, the Sparrow sitting close and leaving her little charges with reluctance, the Thrush with four callow young, but so timid that we thought it best not to visit her more than once per day.

A cat that persisted in hanging around the cranberry bog near the Sparrow was eliminated, and later, three more cats were put out of commission.

This day we made our first examination of the Bluebird.

By standing on a stepladder my assistant could open the box, four young were asleep in the nest. The female Bluebird was very solicitous and re-entered the nest while we were in sight.

On the 11th all was proceeding finely, the Sparrow was sitting over her young to keep off the direct sun heat. More down was showing along the feather tracts, and they opened their mouths wide for food.

On the 16th, the little Bluebirds had their eyes partially open, and their Song Sparrow stepmother was assiduously caring for them when we heard a Crow calling from a treetop close by the bog. Fearing mischief, we later hastened down to the nest to find that the black rascal had eaten the little Bluebirds.

Nothing disturbed the other nests and their young arrived at banding age and were duly banded; the last to leave the box was a Sparrow which remained two days after his foster brother, or sister, Bluebird and the two other Sparrows had flown. The mother Bluebird was as solicitous over this remaining fledgling as though it was her own offspring.—WALTER B. SAVARY, *Wareham, Mass.*

**Status of the Yellow-headed Blackbird (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*) on the Atlantic Seaboard.**—The following data were gathered upon my finding an adult female Yellow-headed Blackbird on Monhegan Island, off the Maine coast, on September 11, 1925. The material was accumulated from various sources and to the twenty-one records published by Dr. H. C. Oberholser in 'Bird-Lore' for 1921, I have added eleven others.

*Eastern Quebec* (1)—September 4, 1878.

*Maine* (2)—August 17, 1882; September 11, 1825.

*Vermont* (1)—August 27, 1916.

*Massachusetts* (5)—October 15, 1869; September 10, 1877; month (?), 1878; September 8, 1897; September 17, 1917.

*Connecticut* (3)—Late July, 1884; June, 1887; July, 1888.

*New York* (1)—September, 1899 (250 miles from coast).

*New Jersey* (2)—Month (?), 1890; September 1, 1917. (Where are two other questionable records for N. J.—See *Auk*, Vol. XXIX, pp. 102-3. But doubtless Dr. Stone rejected them after examination.)

*Pennsylvania* (7)—August, 1851 (Collected by John Krider. Apparently the earliest eastern record.); (Dr. Jackson mentions a flock seen on the western edge of the Alleghany Mts. in 1857. If the record be authentic, it represents the only instance of more than two birds being found together that I have discovered among eastern observations); May 3, 1880; September 15, 1885; March 25, 1890—a pair); April 26, 1895 (the last three 300 miles inland); August 22, 1896.

*Maryland* (3)—September 10, 1891; September 18, 1893; October 1, 1894.

*District of Columbia* (1)—August 29, 1892.

*Virginia* (2)—August 29, 1912—two birds, a pair.

*W. Virginia* (1)—Spring, 1888.