

**Abundance of the Golden Eagle in Pennsylvania in 1927-28.**—Representatives of the Pennsylvania State Game Commission are of the opinion that the Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) has been unusually abundant during the past winter. Several definite records substantiate this belief.

On December 30, 1927, Mr. William Orr secured a specimen which had been accidentally shot near Newville, Cumberland County.

On January 17, 1928, near Mattawanna, Mifflin County, Mr. Jerome Kauffman caught a magnificent female in a steel trap which had been set and baited for a fox. The middle claw of its left foot was injured by the trap, but otherwise it was in excellent condition. Upon arriving at the offices in Harrisburg it ate ravenously. It was quiet in disposition while in its cage. It cast up large pellets of the indigestible bones, fur and feathers of the rats and Starlings which it ate. The basal half of its tail was white.

On February 15, 1928, at Potter's Mills, Huntingdon County, Mr. E. J. Jones caught in a fox trap a rather small but well-plumaged male. This bird was killed and forwarded to us for examination. Its wing spread was five feet, nine inches; its length was thirty-one inches; it weighed seven pounds, nine and one-half ounces. The somewhat barred appearance of the plumage of the scapulars and tertials and the extensive white base of the tail indicated immaturity.

On April 2, 1928, near Burnham, Mifflin County, some boys found a dead Golden Eagle. It had, apparently, been shot. Other Eagles, many of them of this species, no doubt, have been noted this winter in the mountainous counties. It is probable that the abundance of small game has had a good deal to do with luring these comparatively rare visitors to this region.—GEORGE MIKSCHE SUTTON, *Game Commission, Harrisburg, Pa.*

**Roadrunner first Discovered by Lieut. Zebulon Pike.**—The Roadrunner *Geococcyx californianus* was not known to science until 1829, but Lieut. Pike found it in Colorado in 1806, while following the course of the Arkansas River nearly to its source. On Christmas day, 1806, when he was in the valley above the Royal Gorge he made this entry in his notebook, "Caught a bird of a new species by a trap made for him. This bird was of a green colour, almost the size of a Quail, and had a small tuft on its head like a pheasant, and was one of the carnivorous species: it differed from any bird we ever saw in the United States." Pike further says that he kept this bird in a cage and fed it meat, and that when a second bird of the same kind was put in the cage it was killed by the first occupant. All of which is applicable to the Roadrunner and to no other bird of the region.—CHARLES E. H. AIKEN, *Colorado Springs, Colo.*

**Calandra Lark in Delaware Co., Pa.**—On April 15, 1928, while skirting along a corn field at the edge of an extensive meadow in Darby

Township, Delaware County, Pa., I was attracted by an unfamiliar bird song. To quote from my notes, it was "a continuous twittering, suggesting a Prairie Horned Lark, interspersed with abrupt, harsh notes and clear pleasing tones; altogether a jumbled variety of calls, mimical in nature." Having seen and heard a Mockingbird in the vicinity a week before, I presumed the singer was the same individual, but upon investigation, found I was mistaken. The bird was located standing in the short grass delivering his variety of calls and whistles, clear, harsh and buzzing in quality. The bird seemed about the size of a Horned Lark. In appearance (at 100 yards) the back appeared to be a grayish brown. Invariably the bird's back was toward me, and only once was a side view possible, showing the breast to be grayish white with a blackish band on the upper breast. No head markings were visible through eight power binoculars. The bird soon flushed, exposing white on the outer tail feathers, as well as a conspicuous white band on the wings along the tips of the secondaries. Its flight was strong and rapid, somewhat like that of the Cowbird, and a soft but audible "qut-qut-qut" was uttered as it mounted higher and higher, finally disappearing over the treetops. By process of elimination I deduced that the bird must be a Longspur, most likely *lapponicus*, although it seemed a late date for this species. A perusal of available literature and a survey of skins at the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, did not, however, satisfactorily confirm my deduction. The bird appeared to be too large for any of the Longspurs. The white wing stripe and the musical calls were not suggestive of *calcarius*. The bird was heard giving perfect imitations of the call notes of the Goldfinch, Meadowlark and Barn Swallow when first heard.

For the next three weeks the bird was observed on numerous occasions, but never at close range, since it was very wary. It was most readily found in the late afternoon when it could be heard singing from the ground. Only once did I hear it sing in flight. The following is a list of birds whose songs it imitated: Goldfinch, Meadowlark, Horned Lark, Barn Swallow, Chimney Swift, Robin, Catbird, Killdeer, Sparrow Hawk and Pipit. These imitations were perfect, and I am sure would have deceived the most competent observer.

On May 2, with a fellow member of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club, Mr. Victor A. Debes, the unknown songster was again seen in good light, at which time it was noted that the black band did not extend completely across the breast. Four days later Messrs. Julian K. Potter and Richard Bender (fellow club members) were shown the bird which was seen and heard to good advantage. As it was still impossible to identify the bird, it was collected and presented to Dr. Witmer Stone, who identified it as *Melanocorypha calandra*, generally known as the Calandra Lark, an inhabitant of southern Europe.

To quote from Dresser's 'Birds of Europe,' Vol. IV, this species is "common in Spain, a permanent resident of central and southern Italy,

the commonest Lark in Greece—wild and wary—a good mimic.” Dresser is reluctant to believe that this species ever occurred in America. He states, “Swainson has given it a place in the ‘Fauna Boreali Americana’ on authority of a dealer and afterwards on that of a specimen in the British Museum, said to be from the Fur Countries and presented by the Hudson Bay Company. This is undoubtedly an error.” It is noted for its singing ability and for this reason “many are taken when young and kept in cages.”

Accordingly, this individual is quite likely an escaped cage bird. However the bird's actions and general appearance would not support this statement. It was exceedingly wary, and was a male in robust physical condition. The plumage was not faded or worn, the feet were normal and free from disease, and the claws were clean and sharp. How it reached this continent will probably remain an unsolved mystery!—JOHN A. GILLESPIE, *Glenolden, Pa.*

**Starling at Madison, Wisconsin.**—The Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) has reached Dane County. On March 18, 1928, while driving towards Lake Kegonsa to look for waterfowl, a flock of 40 birds flew across the road near the outlet to Lake Monona. From their flight, I felt certain that they were Starlings. They fed for the most part in a large meadow, but were so restless and wary that four hours of intensive work failed to provide a single shot. The birds fed in one spot for only two or three minutes; and then were gone to a distant portion of the field. The arrival of a Robin or a Meadowlark was sufficient to send them into the air. This wariness was entirely unexpected from my limited experience with the species in the East.

I made a third attempt in the company of Mr. John Main on the afternoon of March 20. This was successful. After one of the customary irruptions, the flock alighted near a low bank. A hurried approach, literally *ventre à terre*, brought me within range, and as the birds rose into the air I secured three. This is the western-most record for Wisconsin and constitutes the only large flock reported. H. L. Stoddard (*The Auk*, 40, 537) obtained two birds in the Milwaukee region in February, 1923, and S. Paul Jones (*Ibid.* 44, 104) found a pair breeding near Waukesha in June, 1926. These data indicate that the spread of the Starling has been slow and not extensive in Wisconsin.—A. W. SCHORGER, 2021 *Kendall Avenue, Madison, Wisconsin.*

**An Epidemic of Albinism.**—While touring the lowlands at the southern extremity of Bellingham Bay, Washington, January 8, 1928, Mr. E. J. Booth and I came upon a flock of approximately 500 Brewer's Blackbirds (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*). We soon observed that many of the birds were more or less spotted with white. At least two showed white tails, and others white quills in one or both wings, while yet others exhibited various less conspicuous spots and blotches of white. The