

unusually distinctive individual. It perched, facing me, a few inches above the ground, every so often opening its bill and uttering a run of five or six faint notes. The first thing noticed was that the yellow throat was completely and definitely surrounded by soiled whitish. Next, the pileum was not chestnut but like the gray, streaky back—possibly a shade darker. The superciliary line was yellowish at front but white and wider toward the rear. Breast and belly were soiled whitish, evenly and faintly streaked. Then the bird got down and moved about the ground with the characteristic tail-motion, showing abruptly greenish-yellow upper tail-coverts and clear yellow under tail-coverts. It was thus much more unlike the Yellow Palm than most Western Palms are, especially in spring; but I found on page 85 of volume I of the 'Bulletin of the Nuttall Ornithological Club' (where Ridgway first divided the species) descriptions of a male from Waukegan and a female from Calumet that corresponded to the bird I saw. The *sotto voce* song perhaps indicates a male—probably a *young* male—but the absence of any chestnut cap seems likelier to mark a female.—S. A. ELIOT, JR., *Smith College, Northampton, Mass.*

The Hoary Redpoll in Montana.—For several days during February and March of 1933, a small flock of Common Redpolls (*Acanthis linaria linaria*) frequented the yards of my home near Fortine, Montana, feeding on weed seeds of various kinds. On February 27, and again on March 1, a Hoary Redpoll (*Acanthis hornemanni exilipes*) occurred with the darker birds. Several times I was able to watch it from a distance of less than ten feet, and to compare its size, color and markings with those of the nearby Common Redpolls.

Previous records of the occurrence of the Hoary Redpoll in Montana seem to be limited to these: two specimens were taken at Miles City in 1900 by C. F. Hedges (*Auk*, XVIII, p. 195) and one was observed in Dawson County in 1905 (*Auk*, XXII, p. 313).—WINTON WEYDEMEYER, *Fortine, Montana.*

Bachman's Sparrow in the Virginia Blue Ridge.—On April 14, 1933, while on a four-day walking trip through the mountains, I was surprised to find a singing male Bachman's Sparrow (*Aimophila aestivalis bachmani*) in a pasture field at an elevation of about 2500 feet. The locality was the base of "The Rocks" on Humpback Mt. in Augusta County. Three of us watched the bird for several minutes through 8-power binoculars at a distance of about 35 feet. This species is of infrequent occurrence in Virginia and there seems to be only one other record from the mountains, according to the recent paper, "Additions to the Virginia Avifauna" by Dr. J. J. Murray (*The Auk*' L, 2, 198).—RUSKIN S. FREER, *Lynchburg, Va.*

A Late Migration of Fox Sparrows.—We have had an unusual visitation of Fox Sparrows (*Passerella i. iliaca*) in our New York district this spring. Last year in Central Park we observed only a few individuals; this year the first one was observed on February 26, 1933; they straggled in

every few days thereafter, but on March 31, 1933 we had a "wave," more than one hundred of them feeding on two small lawns. They gradually disappeared, but on April 25, 1933 (an exceedingly late date for this vicinity) we had another small visitation in Central Park. At Battery Park, a small area, at the southern end of Manhattan, six of these sparrows also arrived on the 25th. At this writing (April 28) there are still a few left in our area—an exceptionally late date.—MARC C. RICH, 120 Broadway, New York City.

The Lark Sparrow in Virginia.—About four miles from University, Va., on June 15, 1925, two Lark Sparrows (*Chondestes g. grammacus*) were seen, one of which was singing and chasing the other.

At the same place on July 9 one was seen and on July 23 five were found there, four of which were young which were being fed by the single adult.

These observations were made by a capable observer.

In May 1927, I myself saw two Lark Sparrows at the same spot, one of which was singing. I am quite familiar with the species in the West.—MARTIN CURTLER, University, Va.

European Goldfinch in Western Massachusetts.—The curious oversight by which *Carduelis carduelis* was omitted from E. H. Forbush's monumental 'Birds of Massachusetts and Other New England States' may have been due in part to the entire absence of recent records from anywhere in that region. Since its publication three or four individuals have been noted, as follows:

January 29, 1930, a strange bird appeared at the banding-station of Mrs. E. H. Wilder, 5 Shepard St., Westfield, Mass. Trapped, it was taken to Thornton W. Burgess in Springfield and identified by him as a European Goldfinch. It was then carried back, banded C25713, and released. It remained about the station until March 11.

February 23, 1930, another was brought dead to Mr. Burgess, which had been mauled by some animal; its tail was gone and its wings damaged.

January 6, 1931, Mrs. Wilder's banded bird re-appeared at her station and stayed until January 22. After a three weeks' absence, it came back on February 13, and remained until March 12. There is something suggestive about its departure on March 11 one year and March 12 the next.

In the mild winter of 1932 the bird did not show up at Westfield. At Northampton, however, on April 26, it—or at least a European Goldfinch wearing a band—turned up with a companion. Whether they were male and female could not be ascertained, but until May 4 they stayed in the same riverside tract, and were visited by bird-lovers from all around.

On June 8, 1932, a lady in Amherst who had seen the bird identified one (perhaps the same individual) among a flock of American Goldfinches in her back yard.—S. A. ELIOT, JR., *Smith College, Northampton, Mass.*

Notes on the Birds of Berkshire County, Massachusetts.—On April 4 I observed a pair of Migrant Shrikes (*Lanius ludovicianus migrans*)