

Computation of census figures shows a noticeably more advanced phase in the Starling's spread and increase in 1913-16, over that in 1905-11. It has now touched Vermont and is in Massachusetts and Rhode Island; it reaches north to Poughkeepsie in the Hudson Valley in 1915, north to Albany and southwest to the District of Columbia in 1916. In 1913-16, in Connecticut, the numbers vary by years from 73.1 to 170 (average 121), per report where it is present, and it is present in from 83 to 92 per cent (average 89) of the reports. In New Jersey the numbers vary from 64.6 to 130 (average 95), and it is present in from 73 to 100 (average 88) per cent of the reports.

In these two States from 1917 to 1936, the Starling was present in some 94 per cent of the reports; and averaging the five-year periods, 1917-21, 1922-26, 1927-31, 1932-36, one may compute figures of 166.3, 169.8, 298.2, 159.5, respectively, per report for Connecticut, and 87.3, 285.0, 384.4, 728.3 for New Jersey. The winter concentration in Connecticut seems to have approached a norm twenty years ago whereas that in New Jersey has steadily risen to the present time.

The writer's present hypothesis is that there was through the early years a more or less seasonal, irregular, pendulum movement of Starlings back and forth along the northeast-southwest Connecticut-New Jersey axis which finally extended the winter range of the bird as shown in the 1916 Census from eastern Massachusetts to the District of Columbia. This presumably differed from established migration, especially in that individuals were stopping to breed or to winter at points along the line. One may assume that at the same time, a more local expansion into breeding and contraction into wintering areas occurred, and these two seem to be the factors on which its true migration is building. There is little question that a sharp increase of Starlings in their main central axis shown for 1913-16, is correlated with northeastward extension for the same period, and this was presumably due in part at least to southwestward migration from newly occupied territory in that direction. As to the final attainment of the Mohawk Valley at Albany in the 1916 Census, which might be looked upon as an important step in the Starling's campaign of occupation, three hypotheses present themselves: gradual cumulative spread northward from the center of distribution; northward flow when the population in the lower Hudson Valley rose to a certain concentration; or, what seems quite likely, deflection of some of an increasing number of birds moving along the main northeast-southwest axis.

Those cognizant of what has been written of the Starling's spread will realize that this is merely evidence from one set of data. But to carry it a little further, the Starling is at Albany in the 1916 Census, at Rochester and Buffalo in that of 1922, evidently having extended there through the Mohawk Valley. In the censuses of the following two years it has been reported in Quebec, is establishing itself as a winter bird in Ontario, and is increasing in Ohio. It looks very much as though the hitherto small numbers in the Great Lakes basin had already at this time evolved a wide swing along a northeast-southwest axis paralleling that extending from eastern Massachusetts to Virginia.—J. T. NICHOLS, *New York, N. Y.*

Sycamore Warbler in Massachusetts.—On April 22, 1936, the senior author accompanied by Mrs. Tousey found a 'Yellow-throated' Warbler in Mt. Auburn, Cambridge, Mass., which was shown to other observers. It was an adult male in full song. Griscom, advised by 'phone, went over in the afternoon, and felt positive that the bird was a Sycamore Warbler (*Dendroica dominica albiflora*), as there was no yellow between the bill and the eye. The next morning the Harvard Ornithological Club located the bird and showed it to numerous other observers, who arrived later.

Griscom returned at 10 a.m. with Mr. Francis H. Allen, having secured special permission from the owners of the property to collect it. It was found after a two-hour search, promptly shot, and presented to the Boston Society of Natural History, where it is now mounted and on exhibition.

This bird is new to the State, and emphasizes a most unexpected condition of affairs. Forbush gives several sight records of 'Yellow-throated' Warblers for Massachusetts, but in no case is there any evidence that the subspecies was competently identified or that the attempt was made. Indeed, the assumption that such stragglers would be the southeastern rather than the Mississippi Valley race would almost seem justified as a matter of common sense. Nevertheless the facts are that the two specimens in existence from New England are Sycamore Warblers (cf. the Connecticut record in Forbush)! There is consequently no definite record of the Yellow-throated Warbler for Massachusetts, and we have here an ideal example of the advantage of collecting an accidental straggler, and the disadvantage attached to sight records, no matter how honestly and conscientiously made.—RICHARD H. TOUSEY AND LUDLOW GRISCOM, *Cambridge, Mass.*

Yellow-headed Blackbird at Monomoy, Massachusetts.—On Sunday, August 30, 1936, a large party explored Monomoy, hoping for a shore-bird flight after the violent east and southeasterly gale of the preceding day. Present besides the writer were J. A. Hagar, the State Ornithologist, Oliver K. Scott, John P. Bishop, David L. Garrison, Mr. and Mrs. Richard C. Curtis, Mrs. Malcolm Maclay and Mrs. Fuller. Across a certain sand flat the water's edge was obscured by some patches of tall Spartina grass, and dodging in and out were a small flock of sandpipers, which we were studying, hoping to find an unusual species. The incident is of interest psychologically, as we were 'shore-bird minded.' All but Mr. Garrison, therefore, overlooked a pile of straw topped by a piece of driftwood on the flat half-way to the water's edge. Sitting on top of the driftwood, in plain sight and close range, was an adult female Yellow-headed Blackbird (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*), just beginning to moult! It was rather tame and approached still closer, so that everyone had a perfect observation of a striking and conspicuously colored bird. According to Forbush, three specimens have been collected in this State, and there is another unquestionable sight record. The date of our observation is quite reasonable, since New England occurrences run from July to mid-October.—LUDLOW GRISCOM, *Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, Cambridge, Mass.*

Dickcissel at Ipswich, Massachusetts.—On January 5, 1936, a Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*) appeared at the feeding-boards of Mr. and Mrs. J. Frank Dubois, in Ipswich, Massachusetts, with House Sparrows, and was a daily visitor there until April 19. The Massachusetts Audubon Society was notified of the strange visitor, and at the suggestion of Mr. Francis H. Allen, the writer visited Ipswich on January 26 and identified the bird. This was confirmed the following day by Messrs. Ludlow Griscom and S. Gilbert Emilio. In Nuttall's time, a century ago, the Dickcissel was a rare visitor and for the last fifty years has practically passed out of the record east of the Allegheny Mountains. The Ipswich bird proved a popular attraction, for during the period that it remained, 275 visitors from Massachusetts and points at greater distances, registered in Mrs. Dubois's guest book.—GEORGE BAKER LONG, *11 Beacon St., Boston, Mass.*