

and perhaps all, of the published eastern United States records of Bramblings should be assumed to be wild birds rather than escapes.

To summarize, there have been four reports of occurrence of the Brambling in western North America, two documented by specimens: St. Paul Island, 1914; Amchitka Island, 1957; Hooper Bay, 1964; and Portland, Oregon, 1968. Of five reports in the eastern United States, one is documented by a specimen: Stanton, New Jersey, 1958; Hadley, Massachusetts, 1961-1962; Richmond, Massachusetts, 1962; Tupper Lake, New York, 1962; and Branchville, New Jersey, 1965. Hence the status of the Brambling in North America is probably best regarded as casual in northeastern United States and Alaska, and accidental in Oregon.

I wish to thank David B. Marshall of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife for providing the details of the Portland Brambling record and for instigating the literature search from which this note results. Ruth P. Emery and Geoffrey Carleton added information clarifying the eastern records. John Bull gave further information and stimulating discussion.

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RICHARD C. BANKS, *Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife; U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C. 20560.*

The nest of the Red-breasted Blackbird.—Short (Amer. Mus. Novitates, no. 2349: 24, 1968), in discussing the taxonomy of the icterids usually placed in the genera *Pezites*, *Leistes*, and *Sturnella*, states that all these "build a ground nest that is characteristically domed or semidomed, with a side entrance." His authority for including *Leistes* is Herklots (The birds of Trinidad and Tobago, London, Collins, 1961, p. 250), who states "nest a deep cup built of grass stems and lined with finer grass and sometimes with plant-down placed at the base of a clump of grass; the entrance may be through a tunnel on one side formed by the birds pushing through the grass." It is clear from this description that the tunnel leading to the nest is outside it and is not part of the nest itself.

My own records from Surinam corroborate Herklots' statement that the nest is an open cup. Those I found were amidst low grass and had no tunnel leading toward them, as stated in my recently published "Birds of Surinam" (Edinburgh, Oliver and Boyd, 1968, p. 386). Two photographs of nests of *L. militaris* from Surinam have been published: the first in Penard and Penard (De Vogels van Guyana, vol. 2, Paramaribo, Martinus Nijhoff, 1910, p. 372) and the second taken by me for Plate 25 in my above-mentioned book. Both of these show the nest quite open.

In Surinam *L. militaris* is a bird of open fields such as pastures, rice fields, and wet savannas. Only on the savannas does its habitat overlap with that of *Sturnella magna*, which lives in the drier parts.—F. HAVERSCHMIDT, *Wolfskuilstraat 16, Ommen, Holland.*