

- Day 40 Some down visible on midline of belly; white undertail coverts are distinct; wing feathers well developed
- Day 54 Adult-like call given for first time; head still grayish; tarsus greenish but proximal area now yellow
- Day 70 Proximal area of tarsus with hint of orange

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- LEIGH H. FREDRICKSON, *Department of Zoology and Entomology, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa 50010. Present address: Gaylord Memorial Laboratory, University of Missouri, Puxico, Missouri 63960.* Accepted 16 Oct. 70.

**European Blackbird (*Turdus merula*) in Quebec.**—On 23 November 1970 the junior author mist-netted and collected a specimen of European Blackbird (*Turdus merula*) in the yard of a house in Outremont, on the island of Montreal, Quebec. The bird was a male in postbreeding plumage, with fully ossified skull and testes measuring approximately  $1.5 \times 2.5$  mm. The stomach was filled with mountain ash fruits (*Sorbus americana*). The spleen was apparently abnormally large, measuring approximately  $8 \times 38$  mm. The preserved skin has been deposited

in the ornithological collection of the Department of Biological Sciences of the University of Montreal under catalogue No. 02687.

The present specimen fits very well with the description and illustration given by Bannerman (1954: 216) for *Turdus merula* and belongs to the nominate race. The entire plumage, wings and tail, is glossy black. The bill and eyelids are orange-yellow, the legs and feet dark brown. Total weight was 97.8 g and measurements were: total length 266 mm, wing 130.6 mm, tail 111 mm, culmen 20.8 mm, tarsus 31.4 mm.

The A.O.U. Check-list (1957: 431) reports *Turdus merula* as "casual in Greenland (Sydprøven)." Three other specimens also have been shot in Greenland—one at Cape Tobin, and two on Bass Rock (Tucker, 1949).

T. I. Storer (1923) reported that a specimen F. O. Johnson collected at Oakland, California on 6 December 1891 was identified by C. W. Richmond as a female *Turdus (Planesticus) merula*. A short time prior to this bird's capture 16 pairs of *Turdus merula* were released at Portland, Oregon, in May 1889, and Storer (ibid.) noted the possibility that Johnson's specimen was one of these, which had moved southward. Grinnell and Miller (1944: 572) relegate this California specimen to hypothetical status, and neither the A.O.U. Check-list (ibid.) nor Deignan et al. (1964: 189) include it among the casual records of this species outside of its known normal range.

So far as we know, the present specimen appears to represent the first authentic record of the European Blackbird for continental North America. The bird was in good flesh but had no fat and was taken the day after a strong windstorm blowing from the northeast. It showed no indication of possible previous captivity. The plumage is fresh, unabraded, and claws are of normal length. The one factor that militates against complete confidence in the bird's having reached this continent unassisted is its turning up in Montreal. This is suspicious not only because Montreal is well in the interior of the country, but also because so many transoceanic boats tie up there. A bird that eats such a wide variety of food could probably subsist on what it could obtain on a ship during the crossing and then go ashore in fair shape when the boat docked in Montreal. Still the fact that the present specimen had absolutely no visible fat at this time of the year argues seriously against this theory.

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RAYMOND MCNEIL, *Département des Sciences Biologiques, Université de Montréal, C. P. 6128, Montréal 101, Québec, Canada*, and ANDRÉ CYR, 38 *Avenue Sunset, Outremont, Montréal 257, Québec, Canada*. Accepted 23 Feb. 71.