

Birds in the Bath

Mrs. H. Rodenberg, Kinlock, Sask.

This has been a wonderful spring and summer for our birds. On May 23rd, while I was putting up another bird bath, I heard the nicest bird song. It sounded very much like a Robin but there was more to it, so I walked into the bluff and saw my first Rose-breasted Grosbeak. I got a within a few feet of him and found that the bird was not the least bit afraid of me as he kept right on singing. He truly is a beautiful bird, with a beautiful song.

Another bird we have here this summer is the Golden-crowned Sparrow. I never did hear him sing although I have seen him often. On May 24th the Orioles were here. They kept me busy hanging out string and horsehair. They took a minute off, once in awhile, for a drink from my bath. I love to hear their melodious whistle.

The Bluebirds seem to make most use of the bath, although I have seen many kinds of sparrows there too. Right now the Goldfinches make the most of it.

My Martin house was well occupied this summer. A pair of Tree Swallows nested in one of my houses. I love to watch them flying above their nests -- they truly are acrobats of the air.

How lucky those of us are who can look out of the window as I do and see the brilliant blue of the Bluebird, orange and black as Orioles flash by, the dainty Goldfinches flitting around, as well as other song birds, too numerous to mention by name. I spend hours just watching them.

Starlings Rapidly Spreading

Henry Sevard, Alta.

I saw a flock of forty or fifty Starlings last year - the first I had ever seen. They remained in restless flocks for a few days and then disappeared.

I discovered one of their nests in a hollow tree, which had been used by a flicker the previous year. She had five pale blue eggs, one of which I took for my collection.

This year I have seen many more, although they were in smaller flocks. They are rapidly spreading to new localities and will probably be common across the continent in a few more years.

Bobolinks at Bladworth

P. L. Beckie

During the first week in July I had the good fortune to see a Bobolink. It was a hot day and they sallied forth from fence posts to feed on Blue-bur. At first, I thought they were the Brewer's Blackbird which are a common sight. The yellow patch on the nape, and white back seem to shine in the sun, like reflections from glossy Brewers.

This surely was an unusual sight for me - the first and last time I saw one being about ten years ago. I wonder if they are common this year. My only regret is that I did not stop the tractor to listen to their striking voice or song. The four males remained along the fence line for the better part of the day, but the following day they had moved on.

The Yellow-headed Blackbird is a rather common sight this year. I really find this bird to be interesting. With the gradual return of water to our larger sloughs, the Yellowhead has decided to try its luck around here. It is the first year that I have ever seen it in our district. I have noted about 11 pairs this summer.

Ducks Go Far

Dr. Stuart Houston recently received reports of another 81 waterfowl, from the approximately five thousand banded at Rousay and Leech Lakes near Yorkton, between 1944 and 1948.

64 Mallards were shot in 16 states and two provinces, topped by 13 in Arkansas, six each in Louisiana, Nebraska, North Dakota and Saskatchewan, and five each in Tennessee and South Dakota.

Of three Blue-winged Teal heard from, two reached south America! A Juvenile male banded August 29, 1948, was shot November 6 that same year, at "Popayan, Cauca Columbus, S.A." at an altitude of 1800 metres. An adult male banded June 19, 1945, was shot in January, 1950, at Lake Lorica, near Cartagena, Capital of the Department of Bolivar, Columbia, S.A.