

vations of singing males and of nests are requested from all members familiar with the two species—keep this in mind when birding in the southern fringe of the Canadian zone. (The songs of these species are the best aid to identifying them, and may be learned from bird song records.) Send any such information to: **Dr. Stuart Houston, Box 278, Yorkton, Sask.**

Starling Records

By DR. STUART HOUSTON
Yorkton, Sask.

Timothy Myres, of the University of British Columbia, is doing a research study of the European Starling, and at his request I have checked all my records of this species. It seems that the Starling is still not common in the Yorkton district. As noted in my "Birds of the Yorkton District" (1949), they were first recorded at Bredenbury in May 1938; at Crescent Lake, west of Saltcoats, in Feb. 1941; and at Willowbrook in the winter of 1941-42. The first individual I saw here was one bird in a flock of blackbirds at Rousay Lake on Sept. 1, 1944. On March 13, 1945, J. R. Foreman noted a flock of twenty Starlings four miles east of Yorkton. Arnold McPherson observed Starlings on the south side of Yorkton on May 14, 1945. L. H. Walkinshaw saw two near Yorkton on May 25, 1947. Since returning to Yorkton in 1951, I have only one summer record of Starlings - six noted near Rokeby on April 2, 1955. The Yorkton Natural History Society outings—nine in 1952, ten in 1953 and ten in 1954—all failed to record Starlings.

The Yorkton area is combed more thoroughly by bird watchers during the Christmas bird count than at any other time of year. Five Starlings were noted on Dec. 26, 1945; two on Dec. 24 and 30, 1946; four on Dec. 26, 1948; twenty-five on Dec. 26, 1953; four on Dec. 26, 1954; and six on Dec. 26, 1955. None were noted during nine other Yorkton Christmas counts.

I have seen Starlings more frequently and more consistently in the Saskatoon area than anywhere else in the province. On June 12, 1954, I found four young Starlings in a

telephone pole five miles north of Aberdeen, Sask. I banded two of the young, my only banding of this species. Seven Starlings were observed near a Saskatoon packing plant on March 24, 1956 and six near Dundurn on March 31.

My first four trips from Saskatoon to the Carlton area on Feb. 5, March 10, March 11 and March 17, 1956, failed to reveal Starlings. Subsequently they were noted on every visit to the Waldheim - Petrofka - Laird - Carlton-Rosthern-Duck Lake area as follows: two on March 18, seven on March 25, a flock of thirty-five on April 1, three on April 14, flocks of 25 and 15 on April 15, two on April 28, ten on April 29, six large flocks on May 6, ten on May 12, five on May 27, one on June 17, twenty-four on June 23, five on June 30 and eighteen on July 2. However, none were noted during the co-operative Christmas Bird Count at Carlton on December 30, 1956. They would thus seem to move elsewhere during the winter months. Possibly some have learned to wander southward each winter.

Of all of my trips around Saskatchewan in the past four years, the only other Starling record is for four at Daylesford on June 14, 1955. Fairly intensive studies at Hudson Bay and Greenwater Lake, June 1953 showed no Starlings. The Saskatchewan Natural History Society summer meetings, which recorded 82 species at Fort Qu'Appelle June 18-19, 1955 and 93 species at Madge Lake, on June 9-10, 1956, both failed to disclose Starlings.

INFORMATION WANTED

When was the Starling first seen in your district?

How common is it now?

Have you breeding records?

Is it present all winter?

Have you "spring migration dates" for the first appearance of the Starling in spring (if it does not winter)?

Send this information to the Editor. He will edit it for a future BLUE JAY, and forward the information to M. T. Myres of the University of British Columbia who is making a special study of the Starlings in Western Canada.