

a pronounced patch of white, which was identified as the small feathering covering the fleshy part of the underwing, and also a separate line of white close to the lead edge of the patagium which joined the rest of the white at the wrist, thus forming a white triangle with a dark center.

Compared with a Golden Eagle, certain differences are to be noted. The tail pattern was similar, but the tail was distinctly shorter and more square across the tip. The white on the underwing was of the small feathering, while that of the Golden Eagle juvenile is the vanes of the bases of the inner group of primary flight feathers (this sometimes extends inward along a few outer secondaries). This is a real difference, because many young White-headed Eagles show white on the underwing but not in the Golden Eagle pattern. Furthermore, this eagle showed no trace of the frequently conspicuous golden nuchal cape characteristic of most Golden Eagles, adult and young. Of course the unfeathered lower tarsus of the White-headed Eagle is diagnostic when observed. The tarsus of the Golden is completely covered with a feltwork of fine soft feathers, contrasting with the yellow toes.

The age of this immature White-headed Eagle is uncertain. It seems unlikely that a bird with so much of the tail white is a juvenile, but again one would expect some white on the forehead and rest of the head after several molts. The head appeared all dark, like a first or second year bird, but the largely white tail could indicate a bird several years old. The well marked terminal bar is unusual, but I recall one similar specimen in the American Museum of Natural History skin collection, and I thought at the time that such an individual might well give a field student pause, not realizing that I might see one myself!

One further note — whether this eagle was also the "Golden" seen at Montezuma on March 28, 1959 (Kingbird, Vol. 9, p. 34) is uncertain. A complete annual molt would have come between these observations, and I doubt that such an unusual plumage would survive the molt. — Walter R. Spofford, 766 Irving Avenue, Syracuse.

Flight Speed of Starlings: As I was driving from the Laboratory of Ornithology to my home in Etna on the afternoon of September 20, 1959, I noticed a flock of 100-150 Starlings flying parallel to the road, over corn fields. I adjusted my car's speed to theirs and found that for a distance of $1\frac{1}{4}$ to 2 miles the flock maintained a speed of just under 45 miles per hour. When I drove 45, I gained slightly on them, but when I dropped to 40, they pulled ahead of me fairly rapidly. There was no wind. Finally the flock turned northeasterly and disappeared from sight over a distant woodlot.

This is near the upper limit of the range of speeds clocked for Starlings (18 to 51.4 mph) as summarized by M. T. Cooke (U. S. D. A. Circular No. 428, May, 1937), and it is interesting that the speed was maintained and could be clocked for a considerable distance in this case. — Sally F. Hoyt, Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University, Ithaca.

A Hummingbird Experience: Like many other species of birds, hummingbirds sometimes come to grief by flying into windows or screened-in enclosures. In the case of a bird as tiny and fragile as the hummingbird, death usually results. The particular bird in this episode was luckier than most.

A Ruby-throated Hummingbird had evidently tried to fly across a corner of a screened-in porch and had rammed its bill through a mesh. The bird's speed of flight caused the bill to jam so hard that it pushed the skin away and caused bleeding around the mouth. The bird had evidently been caught for some time when first discovered inasmuch as its body was limp and the blood that had run down on the screen was dry. I was able to gently pull the bird loose and revive him and clean him with some warm water from the kitchen sink. I took the bird outside, opened my hand wide, and off he flew to the top of a tall tree — apparently as good as new. — Marie M. Barteau, Brookhaven, Long Island.

Fearlessness in Pine Siskins: In April, 1950, at Stone Ridge in Ulster County, dandelions were blooming and seeding profusely on a small piece of lawn lying between a driveway and a long rectangular building. Semi-basement windows in this building were slightly above ground level. Finding the dandelion seeds attractive, several Pine Siskins frequented the area for a few days during the month and showed great reluctance to fly when approached. From inside the building the birds

could be watched from as little as two feet away; they usually regarded peering faces in the windows with little concern.

I had a similar experience with Pine Siskins on March 21, 1953, at Kripplebush, also in Ulster County. A pair of these birds was feeding on old pepper seeds near a refuse pile made up the previous fall. I had no field glasses with me at the time, and I decided to walk closer for a better look. Down to about 25 feet distance, I was regarded with little intent. Realizing their zest for the pepper seeds and apparent fearlessness, I continued slowly towards them to see how near I could get before they took wing. Near ten feet they became uneasy and would stop working on the seeds briefly to regard my actions, especially the movement of my feet which they watched very closely. Slowly I edged toward them, and since I made no wild motions to excite them into flight, one would believe they were pitting hunger against the instinctive fear to fly away. The two birds remained at the seeds, and I finally stood, fully exposed, at just three feet from them! They ceased eating and motionlessly eyed me for a few moments until the strain of fear broke and they flew up into the lower branches of a nearby tree.

Let me cite still one further example. In April, 1959, at Kripplebush I saw a lone Siskin feeding near the entrance of a driveway in which I intended to turn. As I slowly did so, the bird was so close that I couldn't see it over the hood of the car. It flew up only at being virtually driven off its ground.

Since all these cases occurred during the spring months, this unusual fearlessness reaction may be collaborated with a dearth of seed supply often found at that time of year and may reflect a hungry bird's desire to stay with a bountiful find until forced at the last minute to fly up. — Fred Hough, Accord 1.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WINTER SEASON DECEMBER 1 — MARCH 31

JAMES K. MERITT

The calendar states that spring officially arrives in March, but it certainly could not be otherwise proved this past season. The early part of the winter was generally mild, and just when it seemed we might escape the season relatively unscathed, the cold and snow arrived. March was, without a doubt, the most winter-like month of the period.

The mildish weather that prevailed until the latter part of February accounted for a relatively large number of late lingerers and winterers at feeding stations and elsewhere. There were several reports of such birds as the Brown Thrasher, Catbird, and Baltimore Oriole. Mourning Doves seemed to be present in quite good numbers. There were December reports of the Tennessee Warbler in Region 2 and the Black-throated Blue Warbler in Region 9. The Yellow-breasted Chat was reported from Long Island.

The effect of the March cold wave was apparently merely to delay the arrival of some of the early migrants. While there were a few late winter storms in the middle Atlantic region, there is no evidence at this writing that our early migrants suffered unduly. As you will recall, this was not the case two years ago. Our "southern" birds (i. e. Cardinal, Tufted Titmouse, Carolina Wren, Mockingbird) were generally recorded in very good numbers, but it is a bit early yet to ascertain what effect, if any, the March weather had on these birds. The Mockingbird and Cardinal are quite hardy species, of course, but the Carolina Wren population seems to rise and fall in keeping with the severity of the winter.

— Among our winter birds Redpolls completely dominated the picture. A review of the regional reports which follow will indicate how widespread their movement into the state was. This was unquestionably the greatest