

## FIELD NOTES

*Monk Parakeet in Broome County:* On the morning of Feb. 11, 1972, after a telephone call from Mr. Freeman Brooks of Conklin, New York, Harriet Marsi and I observed two Monk (or Quaker) Parakeets (*Myiopsitta monachus*) in Mr. Brooks' yard. They appeared to be a pair, although the plumages were apparently identical—green head, back and tail, with dark, almost navy blue primaries that formed a blue V when the birds were perching. The breast, cheeks and forehead were light gray; the underparts behind the legs were a chartreuse yellow-green. The bill was pink. The overall length was about 15 inches, about half of the length being the slender tail which fanned out like a Mourning Dove's tail in flight. Also visible in flight was the gray color under the wings.

We observed the birds for a half hour or more from a parked car in the driveway. The birds paid very little attention to us and spent most of the time flying back and forth between an elm tree and a spruce tree, each time carrying an elm twig a foot or a foot and a half in length into the spruce tree, from which a noisy squawking emanated for several minutes. We were quite puzzled by this behavior at this time of year, as the birds appeared to be nest building. We learned later, though, that this was a roosting activity.

A telephone conversation with Mr. John Bull, Dept. of Ornithology, American Museum of Natural History, confirmed the identification of the birds as Monk Parakeets. Several have been seen wild on Long Island\* and one has been reported from Michigan. They are natives of S. America and were probably imported from there by pet shops. However, since they are noisy and poor talkers, they may have been turned loose by their owners after the first novelty wore off.

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Ed. Note: See *The Monk Parrot*, by Wayne Trimm. *N.Y. State Conservationist* 26(6): 4-5.

*Lark Bunting on Long Island, New York:* A male Lark Bunting (*Calamospiza melanocorys*) appeared at the feeding station of Henry Vail, Riverhead, L.I. on April 11, 1972. This is a bird of the western prairies, mainly Kansas and Colorado.

The KINGBIRD for January, 1968, lists the following records of this species in New York State; September 4, 1888 Montauk Point; September 11, 1896 Millers Place; November 27, 1937 Wainscott; August 31, 1939 Easthampton; June 6, 1959 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; February 27, 1960 Cortland; September 6, 1964 Jacob Riis Park, Queens County; September 10, 1966 Short Beach, Nassau County; November 30, 1966 to May 13, 1967 Belmont; May 19, 1967 Ithaca. In addition, there are the following later records: September, 1967 Jacob Riis Park, Queens County; October 6-14, 1968 Jacob Riis Park, Queens County; May 12-13, 1970 Stanfordville; September 16, 1970 Orient; Sept—October 17-31, 1971 Bronx County.

Beginning April 17 I attempted to trap the Riverhead bird and continued on Apr. 19, 20, 26 and 27. On these five days the bird was feeding on the ground where Mr. Vail had been scattering his bird feed. I succeeded in trapping and banding 55 birds consisting of Mourning Doves, Grackles, Blue Jays, Redwinged Blackbirds, Rusty Blackbirds, Cowbirds, Cardinal, White-throated Sparrows, Song Sparrows, Tree Sparrows and Field Sparrows. The Bunting fed by itself, also kept to itself instead of flocking with other birds. It was singing every day, about one-half the time I was there, in early morning as well as afternoons. The bird was easily frightened by all the other larger birds. By the afternoon of Apr. 27, after five days of attempting to trap it with nine trip-doorstep traps, it became apparent that the bird

\* See Region 10 Report, *Kingbird* 22(1): 57 for summary of status in the metropolitan area.