

All the blackbirds mentioned in this paper, with the exception of one are recent arrivals on Prince Edward Island. The Rusty Blackbird was apparently more common previously than at present.

Notes used by the author in preparing this paper were made between 1950 and 1968. Migration dates are primarily from the Mount Stewart area. The author's father, the late Lane Pigot, provided early information on Bronzed Grackles in the vicinity of Mount Stewart. Status assigned for each species follows the New York State Standards of Abundance, Frequency and Seasonal Occurrence.

No attempt was made to survey literature for the historical occurrence of these species on Prince Edward Island. For this, the reader is referred to Godfrey, W.E., Birds of P.E.I. (1954 National Museum of Canada Bulletin 132); also, Canadian Field Naturalist Vol. 1, (p. 60 and p. 62) and Vol. 78, No. 2, p. 125.

If readers have unrecorded notes of the early historical occurrence of these species, they should publish them.

RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD

It is a common regular summer resident and an abundant breeder locally. Early dates of arrival for this bird for 13 years are March 23 to April 9. Late dates of departure for seven years are Oct. 7 to Nov. 11. A male that was feeding on grain in one of the author's buildings open to the south was collected on December 31, 1959. Young birds were first noted in nests on June 6.

This bird's early occurrence on Prince Edward Island is poorly documented. Except for J. Frank Sterns' 1933 note which occurs in Hurst's 1934 list -- "Summer Resident common around East Lake in 1908, never seen now" -- records are only of a few pairs. The first record of any numbers of this bird is in Hurst's Newsy Notes, Guardian, 1949-50: "Local, not rare, 1949".

The author's own records date from 1950, in which year it was locally common in the marshes at Mount Stewart. Twenty-six were observed on May 7, and a flock of 60 on October 7.

BRONZED (COMMON) GRACKLE

This is an abundant regular summer resident and an abundant breeder locally. Early arrival dates for eleven years for this bird are March 18 to April 6. Late departure dates for five years are October 10 to October 30. This bird forms nesting colonies in woodlots and hedges near human habitation, favoring those near farming operations. Egg dates for 24 nests are April 30 to May 31. The young were first noted in nests on May 16.

The Grackle is occasionally seen in December, January and February. Two injured birds were collected, one on January 19, 1959 and one on January 16, 1965. Their injuries probably prevented these birds from migrating. On the other hand, one was collected on December 25, 1955 that was active and well fleshed and appeared in no way handicapped.