DR. W. E. HURLBURT
VINELAND
ONTARIO

ans. May 25/39

Dr. Casey A. Wood, April 11, 1939.
Rome. Italy.

Dear Dr. Wood:-

Thanks for your letter from Tripoli and descriptive literature from that place. After looking the latter over, I forwarded it on to a Russian friend of mine, whose service in the White Army ended in Tunis, and who would no doubt be interested in the places & scenes shown.

Photos of tropical sunlight & sand present a great contrast to scenes here. We are having a later and more reluctant spring than usual, with cold winds and continual falls of snow in the more northerly settled parts, such as Montreal. On the 9th. I met my brother who drove from there to Toronto for Easter and he told me there were six foot banks of snow along the streets and many conditions prevailed as far west along the highway, as Kingston. In the Niagara peninsula, of course

unusual pair of birds, amusingly enough from Montreal, came to me the other day. They are a pair of European Blackbirds. A friend of mine down there, a Swiss, knew of a couple of females, which were wasting their lives away in a bird store. When up here, about two weeks ago, I took him to Mrs. N.R. Davis's place (whom you know) and there he saw a solitary male blackbird. So he purchased the two females & sent them to Dover. Then he heard of a male blackbird in Montreal, whose owner had no time to look after it, so he is going to send this one to me, and I will get one of the females as a mate, from Dover. These birds are said to be good singers, much like our Robin, but better. I will, of course, send some birds in exchange.

I will close now, with kind regards,

Sincerely yours,
W. E. Hurlburt.

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the ground is bare and grass is beginning green in sheltered places, but it remains cold and dull, the cloudy condition being a feature of early spring, here.

Bird life has been retarded in its return from the south - the early spring migrants, such as Robins, Bluebirds &c. being a week or ten days later than usual, except in small numbers, early Swans were present in the Niagara River, but none were swept over the Falls, this year, so far as I am aware. I have a great ornithological friend in Niagara Falls, Ont. - formerly in the ornith. section of the British Museum - who keeps a close watch on the birds of the Niagara River.

The birds in my indoor aviary have been breeding more or less, since late winter. This applies especially to Australian species. Long-tailed Grassfinches have three young flying & are sitting again; Gouldians have young out now; Zebra Finches have young flying; Parson Finches, cherry Finches & Chestnut-breasted Finches have all laid, but not reared. (The latter species are both females.) The Cuban Melodious Finches (Euneita canora) have one young just out of the nest; as soon as the weather moderates I will put my hardier Canadian birds in the outdoor aviaries, to settle down for the summer.

(over)

I also wish to thank you for your kindness in sending me the German falconry magazine in which the review of your translation appeared. I looked over this magazine with pleasure, though my power of reading German is limited. I understand that there is a group in Toronto interested in falconry and may try to meet some of them and turn over the magazine to one of them.

In regard to the international situation. I am afraid, that we do not see eye to eye on the matter. There is no doubt that the treaties following the Great War need revision, but the power that has protested most loudly made a terrible peace with an apparently defeated foe; I refer to the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk. The rule of modern dictatorships seems in no wise different to me from old-fashioned tyranny. The leaders of these countries have shown bad faith & aggression even when approached in a spirit of conciliation. As you say, we have serious problems of our own, but we are not trying to solve them by concentration camps and suppression of all contrary opinion. However, enough of this.

The chance to obtain a certain

Good letter

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Ans. Mar 2/39

January 13, 1939

Dr. Casey A. Wood,
Rome. Italy.

Dear Dr. Wood:

This letter is a belated acknowledgement of the card you kindly sent me at Christmas. It was nice of you to do so. Why I am so slow in replying & thanking you puzzles even myself.

Last October I had a chance to visit the Casey A. Wood Library at McGill University and spent large portions of three or four days looking at books in which I was intelested, mainly aricultural but many were of general ornithological interest, such as Audubon's elephant folio and Minaggio's Feather Book. I had a typed list of 45 books, taken from your large catalogue, which your nephew in Toronto loaned me. There, the obliging Miss Hubbard kindly laid out on one of the tables and I was soon hard at it. It certainly was a treat.

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My brother is now living in Mount Royal, and my wife & I were staying at his place, when in Montreal. He told me at Christmas time, that his little daughter, aged four, pointed out the Redpath Library, when they were passing it in their car, as the place her Uncle Ellis used to visit so often.

This past year was a fair one as regards breeding aviary birds. The following is a list of those that bred:-

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Australian Crested Pigeon | - 6 | reared. |
| Eastern Ground Dove | - 1 | " |
| Zebra Finch | - 10 | reared. |
| Magpie Mannikin | - 2 | " |
| Bronzewinged x Magpie Mannikin hybrid | - 5 | " |
| Olive Finch | - 2 | " |
| Cutthroat Finch | - 9 | " |
| Rose-breasted Grosbeak | - 3 | hatched, none reared. |
| Fox Sparrow | - 1 | reared |
| Normal x Albino House Sparrow | - 1 | left nest but not reared appeared to be a normal. |

In Canada, ornithologists are

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very scattered and one's hobby is not so interesting when often enthusiasts live so far away. In Montreal Messers. Strub & Dunn live - they are a Swiss & an Englishman, respectively. In Campbellford (about 35 miles north of Belleville) lives Mr. Wilmink who is a Hollander. Mr. Dyer, a Canadian like myself, lives near Swindall, about 15 miles north west of Toronto; he keeps nearly all native birds, many hand-reared and most of them very tame - he is an excellent birdkeeper. Then in Winnipeg lives Kuntz - an Austrian, one of the men I often exchange birds with. In Edmonton I correspond with some people named Lake. In Vancouver there is a man named Turner, and others whose names I have heard, apparently Old Country people, but I have not corresponded with any of these B.C. people, though with a number in California.

I will close now, with kindest regards,

Sincerely yours
W. E. Hurlburt