

**Chapter 96406 1955**

**RED WING BLACKBIRDS**

Fairfield, NJ

**Edward Pearce branch #3**



11/28/2024

## Big Piece, Fairfield NJ

### MILLIONS OF BLACKBIRDS.

**Eat the Early Crops and Make a Noise Like Escaping Steam.**

Blackbirds have been so numerous in and around the Big Piece, above Two Bridges, that the farmers have talked of trying some means of getting rid of them, says the Paterson Press. They have not appeared in large numbers yet, for this season, although a week or two ago some stragglers showed up, indicating that the swarms of last spring might come back. There is a small island above "Big Piece," near the Horseneck Bridge, and for two years blackbirds by the million have covered it. They eat all the early crops and set up such a screaming that it is almost impossible to live near them. One afternoon last spring per-

sons on the road within a mile of this island heard a noise that sounded like half a dozen locomotives blowing off steam. It could not be imagined what occasioned it until the island was reached, and the leaves on the trees were almost hidden in the clouds of birds that kept up the screeching.



Jersey Journal newspaper,  
Jersey City, NJ,  
Monday 5/30/1896 page 6

1950s : Glen has fond memories of sitting in grandma Mabel's kitchen watching many Red Winged Blackbird visitors. She would put seed and bread out for the birds onto the rear lawn . She called them '**Sergeant Birds**' because of the 3 stripes on their wings.

2024 : Mrs. Maryanne Bolembach Pierce has the same interest in the Red Winged Blackbird, yellow Finches and red Cardinals. She has two feeders outside her bedroom windows.

1959 : Albin Pierce had 100 yellow canaries in his 2-car garage, full of big cages. They were happy birds, always singing.

At the same time, he had about 200 varied fish. The grandchildren loved to visit that garage.