

for harm" is well founded and it would seem the part of wisdom to take measures at once to reduce the hordes of this introduction from the Old World before it is too late.—W. S.

**Economic Ornithology.** A GOOD WORD FOR THE STARLING.—In New Zealand where introduced birds have not made themselves entirely welcome, good work by any of them is worthy of comment. In an exhaustive article<sup>1</sup> on the cattle-tick (*Haemaphysalis bispinosa*), a serious pest in that country, Mr. J. G. Myers names four species of wild and two of domesticated birds among the natural enemies, and says: "The chief natural enemies are birds, and of these the most important is the English Starling." On one farm with good nesting facilities for Starlings the infestation by cattle-ticks was practically negligible. Proposals for introducing to New Zealand other birds that might feed on the cattle-ticks are deprecated.

**BIRDS DESTROYING CORN-BORERS IN WINTER.**—The European corn-borer is a very serious pest that has recently been extending its range in this country. Its larvae hibernate within the stalks of corn and various other plants, where they are attacked by various birds. Of these the Downy Woodpecker seems most important but Chickadees, Grackles, and Starlings join in the work. In recent experimental studies it was found<sup>2</sup> that birds destroyed from 12 to 88 per cent of the larvae in various lots of infested cornstalks exposed to them. The investigator refers to birds as "becoming a really important factor in the reduction of the numbers of the corn-borer," and says, "there is ample evidence to indicate that their industry may help to hold the insect partially in check, or even so to reduce its numbers in some localities during the winter and spring that damage by the species may not be extensive enough to cause heavy loss to crops in such localities the following summer."

**BIRDS AS ENEMIES OF RICE.**—In a very comprehensive book on rice<sup>3</sup> Professor E. B. Copeland makes the statement that "Birds are everywhere pests of rice, and are its most destructive foes in many places." Not many details are given but *Munia* in the Orient, *Dolichonyx* in the United States and English Sparrows are mentioned. Interesting descriptions are given of frightening devices used by the Igorotes who, the writer says, "have become specialists in the use of scarecrows."

**BIRD INTRODUCTION IN HAWAII.**—Notice has recently been published<sup>4</sup> of the continued introduction and observed nesting in Hawaii of the Australian Magpie Lark (*Grallina picata*). Other birds being considered

<sup>1</sup> Bul. 116, New Zealand Dept. Agr., 105 pp., 17 figs., Dec. 1924.

<sup>2</sup> Barber, Geo. W., The efficiency of birds in destroying over-wintering larvae of the European corn-borer in New England, *Psyche*, Vol. 32, No. 1, Feb. 1925, pp. 30-46, Figs. 1-2, Pl. 1.

<sup>3</sup> Macmillan and Co. Ltd., London, 1924, pp. 352.

<sup>4</sup> Rept. Board Commrs. Agr. Forestry Hawaii, (Bienn. 1923-1924) 1925, pp. 42-43.

for introduction are our Western Meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*), and the Australian Willie Wagtail (*Rhipidura tricolor*), and Jacky Winter (*Microeca fascinans*). All of these projects have in view the better control of insect pests.—W. L. M.

### The Ornithological Journals.

**Bird-Lore.** XXVII, No. 2. March–April, 1925.

Elliot Coues to John Burroughs on "Wake Robin."—A most interesting letter written in February 1874 when Coues was in his thirty-third year.

Two Days with the American Avocet. By W. W. Bennett.—At Devil's lake, N. D., illustrated by excellent photographs.

The Food of the Western Horned Owl. By H. H. Pittman.—Mainly rabbits and smaller rodents. Makes the sensible suggestion that these birds be killed only when located near poultry yards and actually doing harm.

The Problem of the House Wren. By Althea R. Sherman. (See p. 460)

A Day with a Wren Family. By Mable Densmore.

The Migration of North American Birds. Costa's, Anna's, Rieffer's and Buff-bellied Hummingbirds. By H. C. Oberholser with plumage notes by F. M. Chapman and a colored plate by L. A. Fuertes.

**Bird-Lore.** XXVII, No. 3. May–June, 1925.

Bird Study Near Home. By Maunsell S. Crosby.—With several excellent photographs of nesting birds.

A Record-breaking Mourning Dove. By Mary H. Beam.—Occupied an unused Martin box in which a hole had been broken and later a shelf box on a near-by porch, in which during 1924 no less than five breeds were raised, the first leaving the nest May 10 and the last September 26.

The Problem of the House Wren.—Two writers admit the egg-destroying propensities of the bird but do not apparently believe in destroying the species, another is bitter in denouncing it and a fourth is entirely in favor of it, finding that in his vicinity it does not perpetrate the crimes of which it is accused. (See p. 460.)

Bird Study on a Mediterranean Cruise. By W. A. Squires.

Bittern Study. Part II. By Agnes M. Learned.

**The Condor.** XXVII, No. 2. March–April, 1925.

Discovery of a Nest and Eggs of the Blue-throated Hummingbird. By Rose Carolin Ray.—On a pendent wire in a deserted cabin in the Huachuca Mts., Arizona.

Notes on Sea-birds Observed between England and New Zealand via Panama. By J. G. Myers and R. A. Falla.

Aquatic Visitors to Lake Meritt, Oakland, California. By A. S. Kibbe.—Shows the fluctuation in the number of the various species coming to