

miles east of Columbia, I saw a flock of some two hundred Starlings fly across the road. The birds were flying in a flock formation that was decidedly drawn out from front to rear. Two days later about fifty birds were observed walking about on the lawn of the University campus. Very shortly the birds were seen commonly about the city. Dr. Taylor brought in the first specimen.

With its arrival in numbers last autumn the Starling appeared to have become a permanent addition to the local avifauna. It attracted considerable attention to itself and seemed to have adopted as peculiarly its own the region embraced in the State House Square. Here in the evening the hubbub of miscellaneous calls, squeaks, and whistles tended to drown out the lesser cries of the English Sparrow, another ever present evil. During the period of greatest abundance a gentleman told me that he had counted the small flocks of Starlings as they flew into the trees about his house one evening and that the number of individuals that came was between twelve and fourteen hundred.

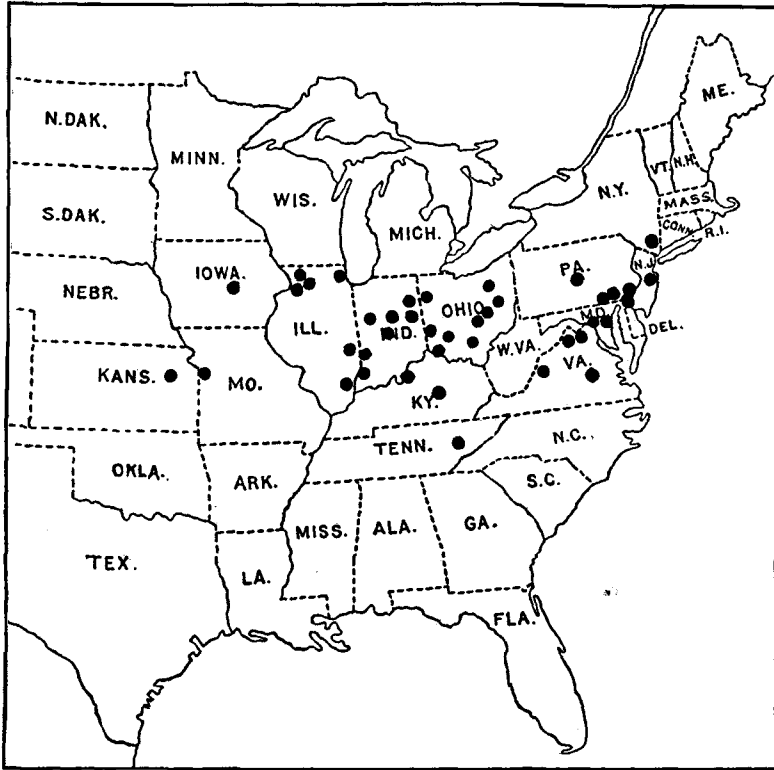
After the first week in April, I suddenly became aware that I was no longer seeing Starlings. I at once visited a number of their favorite haunts and made inquiries concerning them, but without locating any birds. The Starlings had disappeared. I find that the birds were common up to March 23, 1926, and my last record is for several birds seen April 1.

In 'The Auk' for April, 1926, I note what Mr. C. J. Hunt has to say regarding the appearance of the Starling (four birds) in Chicago last December, and that in spite of a winter of much snow and sub-zero weather. Perhaps the same weather has aided materially in causing the influx of these birds into this region at the same time. What seems especially interesting, however, is the total absence of the birds now that warm weather has returned.—THOMAS SMYTH, *Columbia, S. C.*

**Further Notes on the Starling in Canada.**—I have recently found two additional records of the taking of the Starling in Canada, the first, of a bird on Wolfe Island in Lake Ontario, on Oct. 10, 1921, and the second, of a bird in Nova Scotia, on Dec. 1, 1915. The one from Wolfe Island was secured by Mr. Harley White, and identified by Prof. A. B. Klugh at a meeting of the Fontenac Naturalist's Club held in the Medical Laboratories Building, Queen's University, Kingston, Ont., on Oct. 11, 1921. At the time Prof. Klugh understood that Mr. White intended to report his capture in the 'Ottawa Field-Naturalist,' but this it appears was not done. However, Prof. Klugh later on published the fact in his "Nature's Diary," in the 'Farmer's Advocate,' for Nov. 1, 1923. The skin of this bird is now in the Victoria Memorial Museum at Ottawa, its number being 17372. I am indebted to Mr. R. Owen Merriman for first calling my attention to this record, and to Prof. Klugh for the later details concerning it. As regards the bird from Nova Scotia, this was picked up dead and much emaciated at Halifax City. It was mounted and placed in the Provincial Museum in the Technical College (Acc. No. 4306).

I am indebted to Mr. Harrison F. Lewis for information eventually leading to the obtaining of this record, and to Mr. Tufts for the exact date and whereabouts of the specimen. The Halifax bird will thus become the first record for Canada.—HENRY MOUSLEY, 469 Harvard Ave., Montreal.

**Blackbird Roosts.**—Complaints about roosts of Blackbirds are a very dependable constituent of correspondence of the Biological Survey. These



roosts are chiefly populated by Crow Blackbirds or Purple Grackles, associated with which in some cases are Robins, Purple Martins, Starlings, and English Sparrows. The number of birds in the roosts is variously estimated as from 'hundreds' to 'millions.' The objectionable features of these congregations include noise which wakens people earlier in the morning than they wish, or even keeps them awake most of the night; the driving out of other birds; copious droppings from the birds which render passage on side-