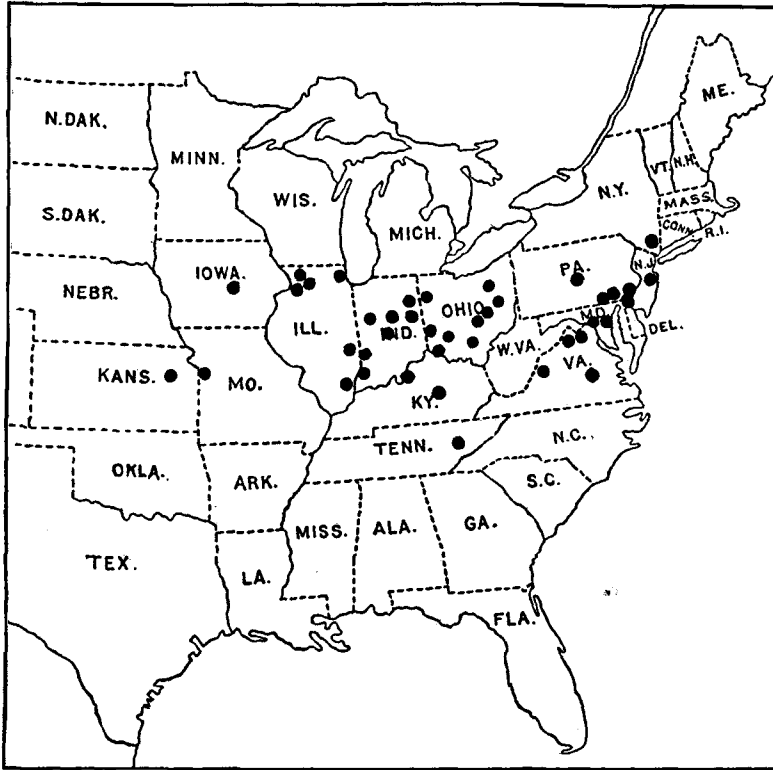


I am indebted to Mr. Harrison F. Lewis for information eventually leading to the obtaining of this record, and to Mr. Tufts for the exact date and whereabouts of the specimen. The Halifax bird will thus become the first record for Canada.—HENRY MOUSLEY, 469 Harvard Ave., Montreal.

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-

walks under the roosts very disagreeable, and makes it impracticable to spend evenings outside of houses in the roosting areas; the accumulation of filth, largely excrement, which kills grass, and, especially in wet weather produces offensive odors; and actual damage to trees by the breaking off of branches. In some cases the presence of Blackbird roosts is said to have seriously depreciated the value of residential properties. Remedial measures including drastic trimming of the trees, the use of smudges and noise-making devices, the firing of roman candles, shotguns, and rifles, and playing powerful streams of water on the birds, are almost unanimously reported as ineffective. Only extreme persistence in the use of the most drastic of these remedies seems sufficient to cause the birds to move. In despair people have cut down prized shade trees to rid themselves of the nuisance. Complaints about Blackbird roosts have been received in every month from March to November (the largest number in July), and correspondents have stated that while the birds formerly were present only in spring and fall, they have increased in numbers and occupy the roosts almost continuously. The localities from which objectionable Blackbird roosts have been reported in recent years range from southern New York, Virginia and Tennessee to Kansas, Iowa and Illinois. They are plotted on the accompanying map and show evident latitudinal restriction, adequate reasons for which are not altogether obvious. A suggested explanation for restriction of shade-tree roosts to a narrow belt is that Blackbirds roost in marshes in both the Gulf Coast and Great Lakes regions, and they may not congregate in large roosts in the rather narrow strips of territory between the shade-tree, and the marsh, roosting areas.—W. L. McATEE, *Biological Survey, Washington, D. C.*

Unseasonable Occurrence of the Rusty Blackbird in South Carolina.—On April 27, 1926, while investigating bird life at Goose Creek, a water reservoir, seventeen miles north of Charleston, S. C., the writer noted several Rusty Blackbirds (*Euphagus carolinus*), walking about on floating vegetation close by a causeway which traverses the reservoir. The birds allowed very close approach, the straw-colored iris being plainly visible, although the birds were studied also with a six power binocular. Some hundreds of yards away, many more were seen, both sexes being represented.

The fact that these birds were noted on this date is an interesting fact, as the latest record heretofore has been March 7, which is quoted by Mr. Arthur T. Wayne in his 'Birds of South Carolina.' Not having an opportunity for collecting a specimen at that time, I returned to the reservoir the morning of the 29th, in company with Mr. E. B. Chamberlain, and we were glad to see that the birds were still in evidence, and collected two males. One of these birds was moulting the feathers about the head, and throat, while the other had completed the moult. Both were singing when shot, and many more were seen, about forty or fifty in all. This fact may be explained by reason of the present season being rather later than usual,