

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,

but, at the same time not to the extent of throwing back the migration of a species to such an extent as the above.

It might also be of interest to state that on the day these birds were first seen, the writer spent the day in the field in company with Mr. Lester L. Walsh, of Ridgewood, N. J. and a total of one hundred and twelve species was the result of our observations, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. This is the highest number of birds ever seen in one day in South Carolina, and it would be interesting to know how this record compares with other sections of the country. Mr. Walsh tells me that he once saw one hundred and four species in one day, in the vicinity of Barnegat Bay, N. J., this being his highest mark.—ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR., *Charleston, S. C.*

First Record of the Lark Bunting for Ontario.—The wandering propensity of the Lark Bunting (*Calamospiza melanocorys*) is well known but up to the present time the name of the species has not been included in any list of Ontario birds. While collecting during the summer of 1925 at Lake Abitibi (Ontario-Quebec boundary) the writer secured a female specimen (R.O.M.Z. No. 25, 10, 16, 159) in the clearing at Lowbush on June 5. Three days later, what was thought to be another female was observed but not being familiar with the species in the field this observation is not considered certain. During the subsequent two months no others were seen.—L. L. SNYDER, *Royal Ontario Museum of Zoology, Toronto, Ontario.*

Migration of the Purple Martin at Vicksburg, Michigan.—For thirty years I have kept record of the arrival and departure of the Purple Martin (*Progne subis subis*) at Vicksburg, Mich.

In the following table are given the data of arrival and number of individuals seen for each year from 1896 to 1926 with the exception of 1899; and the date of departure for all but three years.

The average arrival date is April 8 and that of departure August 25.

1896	April 11	6	Aug. 24
1897	March 29	2	Aug. 27
1898	April 13	2	Sept. 1
1899	—	—	—
1900	April 1	2	Aug. 23
1901	April 10	1	Aug. 28
1902	April 9	1	Aug. 20
1903	May 8	3	Sept. 3
1904	April 6	25	Aug. 20
1905	April 14	2	—
1906	March 6	4	Aug. 23
1907	April 4	3	Sept. 2
1908	April 15	2	Aug. 15
1909	April 14	3	Sept. 3
1910	April 9	1	Sept. 1