

Perhaps I have set myself a hopeless task in trying to correct an error of observation made by the greatest field ornithologist that New England has ever had and perpetuated by the author of a book that will long stand as the great compendium of New England ornithology, but I have done my little best.—FRANCIS H. ALLEN, *West Roxbury, Mass.*

**Dickcissel and White-winged Dove on Long Island, New York.**—*Spiza americana*. DICKCISSEL.—On October 16, 1929, I caught a Dickcissel, at Speonk, in one of my bird banding traps, together with a Swamp Sparrow. The trap was located in a small swamp about ten feet from water. Mr. Ludlow Griscom in 'Birds of the New York City Region' states that the last Dickcissel was taken on Long Island in 1890. I believe this is the first record for the Island since that date. The skin is now in my collection.

*Melopelia asiatica*. WHITE-WINGED DOVE.—On November 14, 1929, I collected a White-winged Dove at Watermill. I first saw the bird at 2:30 P. M. when it flew directly across the road in front of my car, giving me the impression that it was a Mockingbird because of the white on the wing and tail. At 3:00 P. M. when returning on the same road I again noticed the bird, this time about one half mile further west and clearly saw it was no Mockingbird. The bird was standing by the side of the road and flew up when I approached. It alighted in a nearby tree and shortly flew down into the road to get a drink out of a small pool of water. I closely examined the bird through 8 power glasses, my first impression being that it was an albino Mourning Dove. But after further study of the bird I came to the conclusion that there was a remote possibility of its not being a Mourning Dove, but a rare bird. So I accordingly collected it. The body was sent to the American Museum of Natural History where it was sexed by Dr. Chapin. It proved to be a female. It was in excellent condition, the crop containing 513 kernels of rye. Mr. Lee S. Crandall of the New York Zoological Park said that they had lost no White-winged Doves, in fact they had had none for several years. He knew of no one who might have had any. It is a new bird for New York and I believe has never been taken east of the Mississippi, north of Florida. The skin is in my collection.—LEROY WILCOX, *Speonk, L. I., N. Y.*

**Some Recent Notes from Coastal South Carolina.**—*Sturnus vulgaris*. STARLING.—Has at last made its appearance in the city of Charleston, S. C. For some years it has been an uncommon winter visitor to the coast of South Carolina, although a permanent resident and breeder about sixty miles inland. Its appearance in the city has been awaited as a natural consequence as it has been seen in the country districts since late in 1920.

The city birds were seen on January 24, 1930, along the driveway of Hampton Park, well within the limits and in a purely residential section. There were eight birds in low trees along the drive, and they were approached

to within thirty or forty feet. The writer was accompanied by Mr. E. Milby Burton and the identification was almost simultaneous. The further results of the invasion of the city by the Starling will be noted with interest.

*Oidemia americana*. AMERICAN SCOTER.—Has always been rated as an accidental visitor in South Carolina waters, there being but three records until December, 1929, when Mr. E. Milby Burton, together with three companions, shot several of these birds in the Cape Romain region, near McClellanville, S. C. The majority of the birds were females, but a number of drakes were in the bag, Mr. Burton bringing nine to the city. He states that there must have been several hundred in the flocks seen in Bull's Bay during the time they were in the vicinity. The presence of such numbers of these birds may have been caused by the cold wave which visited the South Carolina coast about the middle of December.

Former records for the American Scoter are: One taken in Charleston Harbor by Henry Hunter in 1884; seven seen off Seabrook's Island by the writer and Francis M. Weston in January 1929; one taken on John's Island by Isaac Grimball in April 1929.—ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR., *Charleston Museum, Charleston, S. C.*

**Unusual Winter Records from Southern Georgia.**—During a trip to southern Georgia and along the Georgia coast with Norman Giles, Jr. I was surprised to find several species of birds wintering this far north, and believe on further investigation, with more time, that we might have found others.

*Rynchops nigra*. BLACK SKIMMER.—About 85 birds were seen on December 28, 1929, on St. Simons Island, resting on the sand, then circling about, and later feeding along the crests of the waves. A. H. Howell in 'Birds of Alabama' mentions this bird as being "common along the coast beaches both in summer and winter" so it is possible that we may find it a permanent resident along the Atlantic coast of Georgia.

*Catoptrophorus semipalmatus semipalmatus*. WILLET.—On December 29, two birds were seen by us on St. Simon's Island, near Brunswick.

*Actitis macularia*. SPOTTED SANDPIPER.—On December 31, one bird was seen at close range on a projection of the bridge in the Frederica River between Brunswick and St. Simons Island.

*Iridoprocne bicolor*. TREE SWALLOW.—This species was seen on December 27, in Wayne County which is in the interior of south Georgia, on December 30, in Camden County in the extreme southeastern part of the state on the coast, December 31 in McIntosh County on the coast and in Liberty County on the coast, and on January 1, 1930, on Colonels Island in Liberty County and as far north as Chatham County, near Savannah. Howell says "a few remain all winter on the Gulf Coast" in his 'Birds of Alabama.'

*Mniotilta varia*. BLACK AND WHITE WARBLER.—One bird observed at close range on December 26, 1929, near Lumber City in Telfair County.