

woven of plant fibres, fine weed stalks, and a little grass, and was so compactly built that it could not be seen through. When discovered it contained one very small white egg, approaching globular in shape, with a very few minute spots of red-brown about the larger end.

Quoting from my field-notes: "The parent, male or female, sat very close and being flushed from the nest flew off about twenty feet, alighted, and watched me as I stood by the nest. As I did not move, it appeared to summon courage and returned to perch about a foot below the nest and not more than two feet from me. It sat there quietly, turning its head and eyeing me gravely for at least a minute. It would not enter the nest, however, and finally flew off into the jungle."

"The nest was not visited again until August 15. For the second time the parent bird sat very close, but finally flew out. Before this the bird had extended its head and calmly looked me over. Examination showed two eggs, so almost certainly incubation had commenced. This time the bird sat about twenty feet from the nest, and was there, observing me quietly, when I left at the end of five minutes."

Dr. Alexander Skutch, a frequent contributor to 'The Auk,' has recently written me regarding the nest of this species, and I give the following extract from his letter. "It was an elongate, pensile structure, with a little round opening in one side, giving access to a rounded chamber in the lower portion. In form it rather resembled the nests of *Todirostrum cinereum*, but was much more neatly constructed, being composed almost entirely of the light-colored bast fibres taken from some disintegrating forest vine. It was hung about twelve or fourteen feet above the ground, from a slender twig of a small tree in the undergrowth of the forest, close by a little rivulet on Barro Colorado Island. When I first found it, which must have been about the end of April (1935), it contained no eggs, and I went back many times without being able to discover its owner.—After considerable delay, the two tiny white eggs (faintly speckled on the larger end with brown?) were laid, and I found the Bent-billed Flycatcher sitting on them. Sometimes she allowed me to climb the ladder until I was almost in reach of her before she flew out. She sat facing outward, like the Tody Flycatcher, Kiskadee and Giraud's Flycatcher, not tail outward, like the Royal Flycatcher. I never found more than one bird in the vicinity of the nest, even when I watched for several hours one morning from a blind."

A thorough examination of the literature on Central American birds fails to bring to light any description of the nesting of *Oncostoma olivaceum*, nor of *O. cinereigulare* save that of Carriker already cited.—DAVID E. HARROWES, *Woodmere, N. Y.*

**Prairie Horned Lark (*Otocoris alpestris praticola*) Nesting in Baltimore Co., Maryland.**—A second record of the nesting of this species in Baltimore Co., was obtained through the finding of a nest containing two young birds, at Pikesville, April 19, 1936. While walking over a rolling meadow, the Lark flew up out of the grass with a dead fledgling in its beak; paving the way to the finding of its nest. A week later the young had left the nest but were noted in its near vicinity. Mr. F. C. Kirkwood found a nest containing eggs at Sweet Air, May 1935.—M. BROOKE MEANLEY, *5111 Roland Ave., Baltimore, Md.*

**A Winter Food Supply for the Crow.**—Between December 22, 1935, and January 1, 1936, the writer has occasion to drive along about 1600 miles of highway, covering goodly portions of the states of Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee, Arkansas, Missouri, Illinois, and Indiana. For more than three-fourths of this total distance the roads were snow-covered and ice-sheathed, and temperatures were below freezing. It was speedily noticed that the most consistently conspicuous bird along the high-

ways was the Eastern Crow (*Corvus b. brachyrhynchos*), and the impression grew that the birds were actually concentrated along the roads. The bodies of car-killed animals seemed to offer a reason.

Scores of crushed bodies of dogs, cats, and domestic chickens were noted. On a large percent of these Crows were observed to be feeding. The birds would simply move enough to allow a car to pass, and then re-settle to the food. Yet nowhere was a car-killed Crow observed.

In addition to the above animals, Crows were seen feeding on cottontails, one opossum, one small pig, and three skunks. One of the last named, a half eaten carcass, was examined. It had a strong odor, which the birds appeared not to mind.

The writer ventures the suggestion that this food source, consistent as it undoubtedly is, and available over a constantly increasing network of highways, may be having a definite effect on the ease with which the Crow is able to winter. It seems possible that it may even have an effect on the wintering range of this intelligent and adaptable bird.—COMPTON CROOK, *Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio.*

**Are Starlings a Menace to the Food Supply of Our Native Birds?**—Beginning with January 24, 1936, we had for five days in southern Louisiana, a most unusual spell of weather—cloudy with a northeast wind, and almost continuous drizzle, with the thermometer just about the freezing point. The precipitation was half sleet, half rain—sometimes quite hard.

Beginning January 26 there was on the 3,000 acres comprising the hills of Avery Island, the greatest concentration of small birds that I have ever seen. There had been since early Fall in this vicinity, enormous flocks of Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris vulgaris*). These birds had been roosting in the sawgrass (*Cladium effusum*) around one of the lakes on the place, and in the more open cypress timber on the east side. They had been here all winter in flocks numbering hundreds of thousands. It was their custom in the early morning to leave their roosts and spread over the surrounding country, going as much as twenty-five to thirty miles north and west and feeding in the meadows and fields on seed.

There are on Avery Island about 1,500 acres of open land on which grows a thick mat of Lespedeza (*Lespedeza stricta*), together with many grasses. These growths produce a heavy seed crop which falls to the ground on the approach of frost and it is upon these seeds that the Starlings feed. They gather in compact flocks and crowd so close together, that the ground is completely covered. After the seed supply had been eliminated, the Starlings started ranging for their food to the high prairie lands, both open and cultivated, to the north and west coming back each night to roost at Avery Island. But few flocks had been seen feeding on Avery Island since the first of the year until January 28.

On January 26, one of the greatest waves of Robins (*Turdus migratorius migratorius*) and Cedar-Waxwings (*Bombycilla cedrorum*) that I have ever witnessed, came into the highlands of Avery Island. Literally hundreds of thousands of these birds arrived, all in one day, completely covering the trees on the place. They procured their food from the berry-bearing trees.

Two days later, the Starlings joined this great congregation and their number was unbelievable. They literally blackened the foliage and the ground when the great flocks alighted. They now were following the example of the Robins and Cedar-Waxwings, and were feeding on berries. The undergrowth of the place is made up largely of Cassena (*Ilex Vomitoria*) and Holly (*Ilex opaca*). These trees were heavily covered with berries—so much so, that they seemed red instead of green when viewed from a distance. This is especially true of *Vomitoria*. There are also great