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 (*Clagium 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 Vomitora*) 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 Vomitora. There are also great

numbers of Hackberry (*Celtis laevigata*), Camphor (*Cinnamomum Camphora*), and Chinaberry (*Melia azedarach*) trees growing on the Island, besides a number of other varieties of berry-bearing trees, shrubs and vines, all of which bore an unusual crop of berries this winter. I believe there would have been sufficient berries to have lasted even the enormous number of Robins and Cedar-Waxwings for at least four to five weeks, giving them an ample food supply. This has been about how long the berries on the Avery Island hills have lasted in past years when there have been similar flocks of Robins and Cedar Waxwings here.

I have never before seen Starlings eat berries, but this year following the example of the other birds, they evidently found the berries palatable, and joined the Robins and Waxwings at the feast. As the Starlings outnumbered the others by four to one, the combined birds completely stripped all the berry-bearing plants of their fruit in three days, and, as the food supply became exhausted, the great flocks passed on leaving only a few stragglers where there were thousands a few days ago.

On some of the Cassena-berry trees around my house, Starlings clustered so thickly that limbs of the trees were broken off, and others were bent until they became unshapely. I fired a single shot from a twenty gauge gun into a flock clustered in a Cassena-berry tree on the east side of my grounds. The result was 69 dead Starlings. The flock was so congested in this one tree, that nothing of the tree could be seen, and it looked as if the foliage was a mass of writhing birds.

Are not Starlings a menace to the food supply of our native birds?—E. A. McIlhenny, *Avery Island, La.*

The Singing and Soaring Height of Sprague's Pipit.—In a note in 'The Auk' for October, 1935, by Milton B. Trautman and Josselyn Van Tyne, entitled "The Occurrence of Sprague's Pipit in Michigan," exception is taken to the figures given, in 'Birds of Minnesota,' as to the usual height to which the Pipit rises while soaring and singing. While we were in the Red River Valley in 1928, where many of these birds were singing aloft, Mr. Breckenridge devised a rude adaptation of the usual triangulation method of determining elevations, and, with the aid of Mr. Kilgore, made a number of estimates that showed the approximate heights of the birds above the ground to range from 110 feet, as a minimum, to 325 feet, as a maximum. At the latter figure the tiny birds were almost invisible except with a strong glass and it seemed improbable that they could be detected at all at greater heights. Experiments made many years ago in Europe by attaching, to captive baloons, birds mounted as in flight, showed that a Sparrow Hawk was distinguishable at 800 feet, above which it became a mere spot (Lucanus in *Proceedings of the International Zoological Congress*, Berlin, 1901, pp. 410–418). How about a diminutive Pipit, under such conditions?—Thos. S. Roberts, *Museum of Natural History, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minn.*

A Georgia Specimen of Wayne's Marsh Wren.—A single specimen of Wayne's marsh Wren (*Telmatodytes p. waynei*), from Oysterbed Island, Chatham County, Georgia, is offered for record. This specimen, male, October 1, 1932, bears my number 351, and was identified by Edward Von S. Dingle, who with Alexander Sprunt, Jr., described and named the subspecies (Auk, Oct. 1932, pp. 454–55).

Three others, two of which were identified by Dr. Harry C. Oberholser, and dated, October 8, 1933, February 6, 1932, September 21, 1935, respectively, have been taken from the same general area near the Savannah river mouth, but in South Carolina. These three agree closely with the Georgia specimen.

There doubtless are other Georgia specimens in the larger collections, perhaps