

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 balloons, 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 (*Telmatorhynchus 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