

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

labeled *marianae*, as the two subspecies were confused with each other so long. Any such specimens will be of help in charting the range and migration of this dark form.—IVAN R. TOMKINS, *U. S. Dredge "Morgan," Savannah, Ga.*

**The Second Occurrence of the Ohio House Wren in Maryland.**—The Ohio House Wren (*Troglodytes domesticus baldwini* Oberholser)<sup>1</sup> has already been recorded from Washington, D. C., but the only published record of its certain occurrence in Maryland is that of an immature female taken by Dr. Alexander Wetmore<sup>2</sup> at Cornfield Harbor, near the mouth of the Potomac River, on October 27, 1935.

On May 12, 1936, the writer collected an adult male at Silver Spring, Maryland, one mile north of the District of Columbia boundary. The identification of this specimen was verified by Dr. Harry C. Oberholser.

This bird was in full song, and the gonads were considerably enlarged; yet, notwithstanding this, it was doubtless a migrant, as the breeding House Wren of this region is the eastern race, *Troglodytes domesticus domesticus* (Wilson).—ALLEN J. DUVALL, *Biological Survey, Washington, D. C.*

**Eastern Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos polyglottos*) at Toronto, Ont.**—On November 8, 1935, I heard an unfamiliar note coming from the garden. It was an insistent *chip-chip-chip*. The bird could not be seen from the library but, on raising a blind in the bird-room, a bird flew from a honeysuckle vine outside the window. On going into the garden I found a Mockingbird and on examining it at close range decided it was a young bird already showing the effects of city smoke. At this date there had been no severe frost.

The bird was next seen on November 25, after a heavy frost, though there had been no snow. On January 1, 1936, there was snow on the ground and at 10 A.M. the Mockingbird appeared calling loudly, and accepted some currant-loaf put on the frozen surface of the bird bath. The bird was not seen again till the morning of February 12, when the thermometer registered 11° F. It was in good condition but its plumage had become a dark smoky gray. It again accepted currant-loaf but ignored chopped meat and dried currants.

On February 13, at 8 A.M., the thermometer was 11° F. with an east wind blowing, and a light snow was falling. The Mockingbird turned up at 9 A.M., and an hour later was caught and held by a howling easterly blizzard which prevented it leaving the protection afforded by the library walls. I had difficulty keeping the food shelf clear of snow. The bird ate currant-loaf freely; by 2 P.M. the blizzard had increased and there was evident difficulty on the bird's part in keeping clear of the snow and it had to shake itself free at intervals. At 2.30 P.M. I decided the Mockingbird could not last out the storm and, baiting a trap with a lettuce leaf, the bird was quickly secured and released in the conservatory. It was by no means exhausted and flew about without dashing against the glass; at 5 P.M., it was seen to fall to the floor and died soon afterwards. No doubt the sudden change from blizzard conditions was more than the bird could stand. Mr. Clifford Hope found it to be a female with granulated skull and it weighed 51 grams. After cleaning the plumage, signs of immaturity appeared.

There is one previous record of the Mockingbird for Toronto: one seen from November 20 to December 1, 1927, by Mr. Murray Speirs (Canadian Field Naturalist, 1931, p. 205).—J. H. FLEMING, 267 *Rusholme Road, Toronto, Ontario.*

**European Goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*) in Wisconsin.**—On May 12,

<sup>1</sup> Ohio Journ. Sci., XXXIV, March, 1934, p. 90.

<sup>2</sup> The Auk, LIII, January, 1936, p. 86.