

About ten or twelve years ago the first pair of Robins bred in Houston. Since then the number of breeding birds has steadily increased, until now there must be as many as twenty-five pairs. The center of their distribution is on the grounds of the Houston Country Club but for the last two years they have been breeding in the vicinity of our home at No. 16 Courtlandt Place. There is a hiatus between the coming of these breeding birds and the leaving of the winter residents, the latter leaving two or three weeks before than the arrival of the summer residents. It would be very interesting if observers in other parts of Texas and southern Louisiana, where I understand Robins also breed, would investigate the earliest appearance of these summer residents and their present status. The identification of my bird was by Dr. Harry C. Oberholser.—J. J. CARROLL, *Box 356, Houston, Texas.*

The Migrant Shrike in the North Carolina Mountains.—For the past 23 summers the writer has paid considerable attention to the birds of the mountains of western North Carolina, and not until 1934 did he ever note the occurrence of any Shrike in that territory. On August 31, 1934, however, he saw two of these birds at the roadside between the town of Old Fort, and the resort of Ridgecrest, at an elevation of about 2400 ft., in the county of Buncombe. The birds were seen from a car, at a range of only a few feet, and were about a mile apart. They are referred to *Lanius l. migrans* as this is the form found in the western part of the state; *ludovicianus* being confined to the coast region. *Migrans* is mentioned by Cairns as a migrant in Buncombe County but it must be a very rare bird there, unless it passes through during October or later. The writer's residence in the mountains usually terminates on or about October 1.—ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR., *R. F. D. No. 1, Charleston, S. C.*

Food Carrying by the Crested Starling.—While feeding meal worms (larvae of the Tenebrio beetle) to a specimen of the Crested Starling (*Galeopsar salvadorii*) in the National Zoological Park, I noticed that instead of eating them at once he took them one at a time from my hand and held them in his beak, working each one back towards the base of the beak and repeating the process with the next one offered. I purposely fed the bird all that he could hold between his mandibles until there were 21 worms protruding from the sides of the beak.

He was apparently following the practice, so common during the time that the nestlings are fed, when the parent secures a beak full of food before visiting the nest. This bird however having no youngsters, I was interested to see what he would do next. He simply walked to the rear of the cage, which he shared with a number of Doves, dropped all of the worms and devoured them in haste seeming to lose any further impulse to feed young.—MALCOLM DAVIS, *Nat. Zool. Park, Washington, D. C.*

Some Observations on the Behavior of Starlings and Grackles in Relation to Light.—From the middle of September to October 17, 1934, large numbers of Bronzed Grackles (*Quiscalus quiscula aeneus*) and Starlings (*Sturnus v. vulgaris*) roosted in the shade trees of a residential district of Columbus, Ohio, a half mile from our home; an acquaintance informs us that this is the first time that this has happened in the fifteen years he has lived in this district.

On nine mornings and five evenings, between October 6 and 15, I watched the flights of these birds from our lawn, noting the time and also the light as measured by a Weston photometer lent me by Dr. W. M. Barrows of the Zoology Department of Ohio State University. This instrument received full zenithal light. In the morning I faced the roost, so could easily see the first flock that rose. Many flocks consisted of one species only, while others were mixed. The roar from the roost was