

gulf states. Two previous winter occurrences of *Wilsonia pusilla* in the eastern United States have been published as follows: Lowery (Additions to the List of Birds of Louisiana, Univ. of Kans. Publ., 1: 177-192, 1947) has recorded a female *Wilsonia p. pusilla* collected on December 20, 1944, at Baton Rouge, Louisiana; and Stevenson (Auk, 64: 468-469, 1947) has described a sight observation of this species near Tallahassee, Florida, on January 1, 1947.—CHANDLER S. ROBBINS, *United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Patuxent Research Refuge, Laurel, Maryland.*

**The Guianan meadowlark in Surinam, Dutch Guiana.**—The range of the Guianan meadowlark (*Sturnella magna praticola*) is given by Hellmayr (Cat. Birds Americas, 10: 218, 1937) as northeastern and southern Venezuela, British Guiana and northeastern Brazil. It was therefore of much interest when I observed on October 29, 1947, in the dry savanna between Paramacreek and the airfield "Zanderij," some 45 kilometers south of Paramaribo, an individual which I was able to collect and which is now in my collection. It proved to be a female weighing 73 grams.

By this record the range of this species seems to be extended considerably to the southeast. I must draw attention to the fact, however, that in the large egg collection assembled by the Penard brothers about the beginning of the present century (now in the Leyden Museum) there is an egg attributed to this species from Surinam, though Hellebrekers in his revision of this collection (Zoologische Mededeelingen, 24: 267, 1942), apparently not aware of the existence of any South American forms of this species, calls it *Sturnella m. magna*!—FR. HAVERSCHMIDT, *14 Waterkant, Paramaribo, Surinam, Dutch Guiana.*

**Grackle competition for dogwood fruit.**—An abundant crop of fruit was noted on flowering dogwood trees, *Cornus florida*, near Leesburg, Virginia. Some 20 trees along the Potomac River were much frequented by birds, in particular, the northern flicker, *Colaptes auratus*, the eastern cardinal, *Richmondia cardinalis*, and the tufted titmouse, *Parus bicolor*. About 10:00 a. m. on the morning of October 27 a heavy downpour of rain began. Within 15 minutes large numbers of purple grackles, *Quiscalus quiscula*, accompanied by a few starlings, *Sturnus vulgaris*, began to descend into the dogwoods. These two species had not hitherto been seen in the dogwood trees.

Both grackles and starlings began to devour ravenously the ripe fruit. Apparently the bill of the purple grackle is not suited for the operation of both plucking fruit and swallowing it. They are able to tear off the fruit with ease but are able to swallow only a small portion of it. The rest is dropped to the ground; many of the grackles were soon at work there. Both the seed and the fleshy part were consumed.

After half an hour the birds suddenly departed. There appeared to have been 800 to 900 grackles and seven or eight starlings in the flock. It was still raining when they left. Later when I inspected the trees, I discovered that they had been completely stripped of fruit. Some uneaten fruit still remained on the ground, particularly near the house, where the birds apparently had been too wary to descend. Without competition, such as I have described, the dogwood trees would have furnished food for many species of birds throughout the fall.—JOHN V. DENNIS, *Moose Hill Bird Sanctuary, Sharon, Massachusetts.*

**A new goldfinch from Persia.**—During the study of my collections from Iran a new race of the gray-headed form of the goldfinch was discovered.