

BIRD NOTES

English Starlings eating Olives.—When asked to check up on the report that the introduced Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*) were eating olives in lieu of their usual food, I made the following observations in June near the Glynde, a north-eastern suburb of Adelaide. Five birds were shot for examination, with the following results:—(1) Five whole ground beetles and parts of many more. (2) Hard mass of fig. (3) Five olive stones still in their skins and one whole ground beetle. (4) A mixture of olives and fig. (5) Three clean olive stones and a mass of skins.

While watching the trees I observed that the majority of olives were swallowed whole but some sucked the fruit dry and then wiped off the remains on a branch. A man who owns a nearby olive plantation stated that starlings had ruined a large part of his crop. This would account for the number of wild olive trees now growing in our foothills. (Oliver Fuller.)