

free, and the nest about an inch from the trunk. The whole nest was well concealed, covered and protected by several thick green branches hanging directly above it. The nest was made principally of moss, evergreen needles, poplar catkins, grass and a feather. It was thick and had a soft, spongy feeling. The young had but recently hatched. A short portion of the Kinglet's spring song was frequently heard and when the parent was disturbed it chattered like a scolding House Wren.—K. CHRISTOFFERSON, D.D.S., *Saulte Ste, Marie, Mich.*

Changes in Bird Life in Amherst, Massachusetts in Twenty Years.—This spring (1925) in Amherst, Mass., I was delighted to hear Song Sparrows singing on every side and later to note that they nested freely through the town. Twenty years ago these birds were only to be found in thickets outside of the village. Another surprise was the summering of a Maryland Yellow-throat on my mother's grounds in Amherst, as this species used to be even more distinctly a bird of tangles on the outskirts. On June 10, I heard a typical *wichery wichery wichery* from the garden, but on my next visit—July 1—I was much puzzled over an entirely new song which, to my astonishment, I discovered came from a Maryland Yellow-throat. I stayed all morning and heard nothing but this song from him. It was a warble with little accent and no pauses except a slight one in the middle: *tee-der-der tee-der-der*.

An especially lovely bird, that has established itself in town since my school days, is the Wood Thrush which may now be heard singing in the ravine near the site of the old High School. On June 23, we saw a Black-throated Blue Warbler and heard its curious song in woods near Amherst at an elevation of only 200 feet; this is certainly a new summer bird in this immediate region, although we found it breeding on the Pelham Hills and on Mount Holyoke four years ago.

Birds that have increased in numbers are Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Barn and Cliff Swallows and House Wrens. All of these, twenty years ago, were uncommon; now they would be called common.

Species that have decreased are Bobolinks, Least Flycatchers and English Sparrows.

The Starling is, of course, entirely new, having first appeared in 1910.¹ I have had no experience with it as a nesting species, but in the winter, in Amherst, it seemed to me quite an entertaining addition to the otherwise scanty bird life.—MARGARET MORSE NICE, *Pelham, Mass.*

¹ Cooke, May T. Spread of the European Starling in North America. U. S. Dept. Agri. Dept. Cir. 336, p. 3.