

but with the first warm days of spring the majority disappeared and when they came back the next winter their ranks were reduced at least one-half.

Two pairs bred in 1925 under the eaves of the barn, the birds forcing an entrance through the wooden shingles of the roof. In 1926, the same nest sites were used again but as soon as the young were on the wing they left the vicinity and up to this writing (October 20, 1926) no Starlings except a stray bird or two have been seen.

When nesting I noticed the birds jerking living leaves from the trees and carrying them in apparently for building material, and birds nesting in old Woodpeckers' holes in a nearby orchard carried chips and whatnot out of the cavities and stowed them away in crevices in the trunk of a birch tree where branches forked from the main limbs, one such place held a quart of material. The hole which they were excavating was found later to be seventeen inches deep.—LEWIS O. SHELLEY, *East Westmoreland, N. H.*

**Grackles Killing Young Pheasants.**—At my Game Farm on the Pickering Creek, in Chester County, Pa., we lost, in the Pheasant field, almost three hundred little Pheasants (*Phasianus*), a few days old, which were destroyed by Purple Grackles (*Quiscalus q. quiscula*). The male Grackles were the ones that did the damage. They came into the enclosure and simply took the heads off the little birds, leaving the bodies.

This happened during the end of June and the first of July, when the Grackles were, apparently, nesting in old cherry trees fairly close to the Pheasant field. We actually shot some to these birds in the act of committing the murder, and, as I said before, when we stopped them, they had killed almost three hundred. My observation makes me believe these depredations were confined to a few pairs of Grackles, and that this is not, necessarily, a general characteristic of this bird. This is the first time I have had any experience with them that was anything but to their credit.

Since writing the above I chanced to be looking over the August (1926) number of the 'Game Breeder' and on page 170 in an article by Lillian E. Beyers is an account of a Magpie attacking a hen Pheasant and killing some of her young and also the following statement: "I have also seen Blackbirds carry off baby Pheasants in alarming numbers. I found that the Blackbirds would fly down, pick the young Pheasant violently upon the head and hurriedly dismember it and carry it off to the trees nearby to feed a hungry nest of young of their own." The "Blackbird" referred to is obviously the western representative of our Purple Grackle, the Bronzed Grackle.—FRANK B. FOSTER, *1800 Morris Building, Philadelphia, Pa.*

**A House Finch Infected by Fly Larvae.**—Once in a while one can catch a juvenile House Finch (*Carpodacus frontalis mexicanus*) which has left the nest, but is still not able to evade capture by hand. About