

**Flickers Attacked by Starlings.**—Situating a few yards from the house stands a large, tall dead elm stub, in which Flickers (*Colaptes auratus luteus*) have attempted, unsuccessfully, to nest. For three successive seasons, a new cavity was dug but Starlings (*Sturnus v. vulgaris*) drove the Flickers out and nested in these cavities.

The first year the Flickers were driven away before eggs were laid. The next spring, a pair of Starlings desirous of the new nest-hole for their second brood, killed the young Flickers and they, or another pair, later threw out the dead birds, and nested. The third year, hearing a great to-do of Starling squawks and whistles, I was in time to see a Starling, pursue the female Flicker and strike her at the base of the skull when she alighted at the nest-hole. Examination proved that the victim was killed instantly, the Starling's bill having pierced skull and brain. Since then several nesting Flickers, presumably killed in this same manner, have been brought to me. In 1933 I saw a female that was paralyzed from an attack; she tried several times to climb up the tree and finally fell back and died.

On the morning of April 22, 1934, a Flicker was giving his ringing call and drumming on the old elm stub at 6:00 A. M. Later, pursued by Starlings, he ducked first one way and another, finally going behind a large loose sheet of hanging bark, where he was not molested. The following morning he was at the stub at 5:00 A. M. and his successive visits varied little from this hour. This morning when Starlings attacked him, being close to a nest-hole, he entered the cavity and remained inside for about ten minutes. During this interval he was heard, to do some tattooing and thereafter made it a practice to dodge immediately into this hole when he came to the stub, and from inside give his seasonal importunings for some female of his ilk, repeating the performance several times a day.

Giving off as it did an indistinct and uninterpreted pounding drone, this unique tattooing apparently disquieted the Starlings since they could not seem to detect its cause, and it sufficed to hold them at bay. They continued to be uncertain and suspicious, coming to the stub and inspecting it on the outside, alighting in nearby trees and vociferating, only to fly away hastily when the droning drumming commenced anew. At this time two pairs of Starlings had eggs in the stub and the third pair was building in the cavity preëmpted by the male Flicker, but all three pairs deserted. The direct result was that no Starlings nested there in 1934. And as they never missed a chance to drive away any Flicker that alighted on the stub, no Flickers nested, either.—LEWIS O. SHELLEY, *East Westmoreland, N. H.*

**Prothonotary Warbler at Auburndale, Mass.—A Correction.**—I have but just discovered an error that appeared in the 'General Notes,' page 223 of 'The Auk' for April, 1928, and which seems unaccountably to have gotten by me at the time.

The title "The Prothonotary Warbler at Newton Centre, Mass." should have read, "The Prothonotary Warbler at Audurnbale, Mass.," the place where the specimen was collected as the context shows.—FRED. H. KENNARD, *Newton Centre, Mass.*

**Nashville Warbler (*Vermivora ruficapilla*) in Alabama.**—In Howell's 'Birds of Alabama' there is a single doubtful record of the Nashville Warbler for this state. It was recorded by A. A. Saunders at Hollins, April 18, 1908. Howell says (p. 290): "Mr. Saunders wrote me (April, 1916) that this specimen, being badly mutilated, was not preserved and that he has since felt some doubt as to the correctness of his identification."

I saw a Nashville Warbler in the western suburbs of Birmingham, April 30, 1934. I recognized it by its gray crown, white eye ring, yellow breast, and very active habits.—HENRY STEVENSON, 207 S. 13th St. S. W., *Birmingham, Ala.*