

Crows plucking hair from cows.—On February 19, 1946, while driving on U. S. Highway no. 90, about three miles east of Madison, Florida, I observed two American Crows standing on the back of a cow which was grazing on the shoulder of the highway. Each crow had a beak full of white hairs which had been plucked from the cow's back. The crows remained on the cow's back while I drove slowly by within 50 feet of them. I stopped just beyond to observe further this unusual sight and was interested to note that the cow continued to graze as the crows continued to pluck hair from her back. The American Crow is nest-building in Florida at this time of the year. I have talked with a number of ornithologists and no one else seems to have observed this behavior on the part of the crow which leads me to believe that this was an unusual occurrence.—LUCIEN HARRIS, JR., *Atlanta, Georgia.*

A thrifty Starling.—Any factor, small as it may be, that contributes to the firm establishment of a species in a certain area is always worth noting. At this writing, the middle of April, the Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) is engaged in active nidification. The birds are seen walking lawns and fields gathering in their beaks material to their liking, such as grasses and twigs, and flying with great labor to their nesting cavities, there depositing and arranging the material, only to leave and search for more. Many forms when gathering nesting material are not so careful nor so greedy as the Starling. If a piece of grass falls from the beak, the bird ignores it, and flies onward to its destination. But the Starling appears thrifty as the following observation depicts. While walking along one of the busy streets of Washington, D. C., I observed several Starlings busily gathering nesting material. One of the birds with a mouthful of dried grasses flew across the street, and in mid-street accidentally dropped the nesting material. The material floated downward upon a passing truck. Immediately the bird dived down upon it, falcon style, recovered the grasses from the speeding truck, and flew in the direction of its nesting site. This small display of persistent economy may be a contributing factor in the establishment of the species, that was introduced in 1890–1891.—MALCOLM DAVIS. *The National Zoological Park, Washington, D. C.*

***Ixodes auritulus* on a Savannah Sparrow.**—On May 10, 1945, I trapped an adult *Passerculus sandwichensis alaudinus* in a two-cell Porter trap set at Gold Creek, Juneau, Alaska. Upon removing the bird for banding it was noted that there were several larval ticks attached about the rim of the bird's eyes. These larvae were removed with thumb forceps and placed alive in a modified Hixon jar for shipment to R. A. Cooley, Senior Entomologist, United States Public Health Service, Rocky Mountain Laboratory, Hamilton, Montana, for identification. They were given accession number AP-21813 and identified as female *Ixodes auritulus*, eight fed larvae. The male of this species has never been found. The larvae were pulled off without drawing blood and appeared to have no ill effects on the bird.—RALPH B. WILLIAMS, *Juneau, Alaska.*■

Cowbird eggs in Rose-breasted Grosbeak's nest.—In his book, 'The Cowbirds' Friedmann states that he has never heard of anyone finding more than two Cowbird eggs in the nest of the Rose-breasted Grosbeak. While doing field work on June 5, 1945, I came upon a nest of this grosbeak with the male bird incubating. Examination of the nest revealed five well-incubated eggs of the Cowbird but none of the grosbeak. Apparently this is a very unusual occurrence.—JIM HODGES, *Davenport, Iowa.*



(Upper figure) PETTINGILL: KING RAIL IMPALED ON BARBED WIRE. (Lower figure) KUTZ: RING-BILLED GULL IN NEW YORK. RING-BILLED AND HERRING GULLS ON LITTLE GALLOO ISLAND, EASTERN LAKE ONTARIO, NEW YORK.