

## GENERAL NOTES

**A Flicker with a Family of Starlings.**—On May 24, 1938, I had the opportunity of watching a female Flicker (*Colaptes auratus luteus*) attending to her household duties. The nest was in an old willow stub and about five feet from the ground. She had made a few trips with food and I approached to trap her. Upon trapping her and banding her with No. 37-348290, I proceeded to extract the young. As the hole was quite large the three feathered young were taken out easily.

Upon seeing them they were recognized as juvenile Starlings (*Sturnus v. vulgaris*). The nest was made of chaff, straw and feathers—a typical Starling's nest. There was no doubt that the female Flicker had taken over the nesting hole as she was feeding and caring for them.

Could a Starling have destroyed this bird's nest and laid her own eggs, the Flicker coming back and incubating them?—WILLIAM LOTT, 72 Empress Avenue, London, Ontario.

**Mockingbird Spends Winter in Norwich, Vermont.**—A Mockingbird fed regularly at several homes in Norwich, Vermont, from the middle of January through February and March 1939. Its diet was mainly doughnuts. It spent the major portion of the time at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Davis. When not feeding it usually perched on an apple tree in the yard.—RICHARD LEE WEAVER, Dartmouth College, Hanover, N. H.

**Banding a Migrant Shrike.**—Just before sunup, on the sharp, clear morning of January 20, 1939, I looked out into the back-yard at my traps. In a Government sparrow trap two Tree Sparrows (*Spizella a. arborea*) were fluttering about attempting frantically to escape. Dancing and fluttering about on top of the trap, trying to get at the sparrows, was a Migrant Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus migrans*). I went directly to the trap to frighten the bird away. So intent was it upon the sparrows that I approached within ten feet of the trap before the Shrike flew away. Its short flight took it to a nearby wire fence from which it returned almost immediately and resumed its attempts to get at the sparrows, entirely unmindful of my presence as I stood almost beside the trap.

Returning to the house I got my crab net, eight inches in diameter on a five and one-half foot handle. Approaching cautiously this time, I reached the net forward and set its edge on the top of the trap. Almost immediately the Shrike's antics brought it against the mesh of the net. A twist of the handle carried the net's rim down against the top of the cage and the bird was captured. It struggled very little.

I placed a band (39-214051) on its left leg and carried the bird six miles away from my feeding station before releasing it. This is the first Shrike ever to have visited me here in Hartford, Connecticut.—G. HARGOOD PARKS, 141 Branford Street, Hartford, Connecticut.

**Purple Finches in Large Numbers Around Hanover, N. H.**—On February 13, 1939, a small number of Purple Finches arrived in Hanover, N. H. and in less than a week, hundreds were feeding at most of the stations in town. By March 5, thousands were to be observed in the general vicinity, feeding on burdocks, and large quantities of sunflower seed. In the period from February 15 to March 15 over 800 birds were banded and about 350 were marked with colored "tail plumes." Any information concerning the whereabouts of these plumed birds should be sent to the author.—RICHARD LEE WEAVER, Dartmouth College, Hanover, N. H.

**Tree Sparrows Showing a Seemingly Planned Behavior.**—One morning recently, it was sleeting after a night during which a freezing rain had coated the ground with a thin layer of ice. Millet, thrown on the ground near a lilac bush