

## 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

the previous day, was hidden by the ice and with two inches of snow and sleet on top. Two Tree Sparrows (*Spizella a. arborea*), shunning the more protected feeding places, were seen to alight where they had apparently found the food on previous occasions. They scratched, but seemed to find nothing to eat in the snow. Then both birds crouched in the snow, half burying themselves. Every few minutes they straightened their legs and scratched the snow only to return again to their crouching position.

From time to time a new Tree Sparrow approached and drove one or both away. The new arrivals at once took up the alternate crouching and scratching of those which had been displaced. It was not long before the regular pecking of the birds showed that they were eating.

A few hours later I examined the spot and found an area of almost a square foot of ground entirely bare of snow and ice. The edges of the bare spot showed snow turned to ice and the ice was melted smooth as if by the warmth of the bodies of the birds. They had apparently melted the icy covering from the millet and had eaten their fill.—G. HAPGOOD PARKS, 141 Branford Street, Hartford, Connecticut.

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## RECENT LITERATURE

Reviews by Margaret M. Nice and Thomas T. McCabe

### BANDING AND MIGRATION

**1. Göteborg's Natural History Museum's Ringing of Birds in 1937.** (Göteborgs Naturhistoriska Museums Ringmärkningar av Flyttfåglar under 1937.) L. A. Jagerskiöld. 1938. *Göteborgs Musei Årstryck* 1938; 89–114. Since 1911, 92,394 birds of 180 species have been ringed under the supervision of the Göteborg Museum, 9,349 of these in 1937. There have been 3,292 returns and recoveries—3.6%. Birds ringed in largest numbers were Black-headed and Common Gulls (*Larus ridibundus* and *L. canus*), Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*), Common, Arctic and Sandwich Terns (*Sterna hirundo*, *S. paradisea*, and *S. sandvicensis*), Herring and Lesser Black-backed Gulls (*Larus argentatus* and *L. fuscus*), Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*) and Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*).

**2. Notes on the Migration of Swedish Birds.** E. Lönnberg. 1938. Proceedings 8th International Ornithological Congress, Oxford: 603–619. "Formerly the Hooded Crow was quite a regular migrant, and its return, especially in northern Sweden, was regarded as a sure presage of the approaching spring. Nowadays the Crows commonly remain in the southern parts, and also in an ever increasing number in the north near towns and villages, etc. The Blackbird (*Turdus merula*) is also now much oftener seen in winter-time than fifty years ago." A number of species have lately come in as breeders from the south. If the weather is cold during the spring migration, Redwings (*Turdus musicus*) "may stay and breed much farther south than is normally the case."

**3. Reverse Migration.** Harrison F. Lewis. 1939. *Auk*, 56 : 13–25. The author describes a brilliant example of a phenomenon now fairly familiar to European ornithologists but rarely recorded in this country. Using the terms of Weigold and of Koch, to which Lewis seems sympathetic, "weather," as opposed to "instinct" migrants are "positively anemotactic" if they fly against the wind, and *cursus retrovertus* occurs when, owing to reversal of the prevailing seasonal winds, such birds must reverse their customary course. The present case occurred on Pelee Island, in Lake Erie, between May 10 and 14, 1937, where at least 34 species, mostly passerine with at least 12 warblers, were working south through the woods and finally flying south out over the lake against a strong wind. The phenomenon was not common to the total population of the moment. Some fifteen species at least, mostly migratory, were present without participating in the movement.