

Intestines and kidneys were normal and the gonads were in the expected undeveloped state.

Gross diagnosis was obstruction of the digestive tract by a foreign body with consequent gradual starvation. Kenyon and Uttal say that it is "purely conjectural" how their Grackle came to have eaten string. In the case of my Robin, I could scarcely conclude otherwise than that it mistook the piece of string for a worm. Students of bird behavior might enlarge upon these two instances by experiments in order to learn the order of appearance of the various factors involved in the recognition of food by growing birds and the parts played by instinct and experience.—C. BROOKE WORTH, *Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, Pennsylvania.*

**Wilson's Thrush in Oklahoma.**—Apparently there are but three Oklahoma specimens of *Hylocichla fuscescens* in existence. All these (male, Arnett, Ellis Co., May 27; male and female, Kenton, Cimarron Co., June 2) were taken in 1936 by the writer and identified by him as *H. f. salicicola* (*Auk*, 53, 1936: 434). Further careful comparison has shown the Kenton female to be more reddish brown throughout the upper parts, brighter buff on the sides of neck and breast, and less sharply streaked on the breast than the other two birds, however, revealing the fact that it is actually a Wilson's Thrush, *H. f. fuscescens*. The Willow Thrush, *H. f. salicicola*, is known to breed as far east as Michigan (see Van Tyne, *Occ. Papers Mus. Zool. Univ. of Mich.*, No. 379, 1938: 29) so the occurrence of *H. f. fuscescens* in far western Oklahoma is indeed extraordinary. The author is grateful to Allan R. Phillips for his assistance in identifying the specimens in question and in thus adding another form to Oklahoma's avifauna.—GEORGE MIKSCHE SUTTON, *Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.*

**A Successful Method of Preventing Starling Roosts.**—Louisville has been plagued with a large winter Starling roost since about 1932. During the first few years the Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*) roosted in trees especially on the University of Louisville Campus. Later, attracted by the warmth and bright lights of the business area, they began roosting in increasing numbers on the unused postoffice and adjacent buildings, especially on Fourth, Chestnut, Guthrie, and Walnut Streets. On the postoffice alone about 15,000 birds regularly perch, and several thousands more roost in a group of trees in the tiny park north of the building. The trouble and annoyance caused by this roost, variously estimated from one to two hundred thousand birds, has been extreme. The buildings are rendered unsightly by their guano and shoppers find walking beneath the incoming flocks hazardous to their attire. One large store raised its awnings each afternoon and posted the sign "These awnings raised because Starlings unfair to pedestrians."

Of the numerous methods advocated for eliminating the birds, two merit comment. One store purchased a dozen Screech and Barn Owls and chained them to perches along the upper window ledges after being told that Starlings are extremely afraid of owls. Unfortunately most of the owls were either injured by the chains or died from other causes and the experiment was discontinued before their value could be determined.

One method, however, has been invented here at Louisville which has proven extremely successful, and as no mention is made of it in E. R. Kalmbach's recent leaflet on methods of combating Starling roosts (*Wildlife Leaflet*, 172, Dec., 1940) it seems desirable to bring it to the attention of ornithologists.

In the fall of 1939, Mr. J. C. Pfeiffer, the engineer for a large department store in the heart of the Starling roost, installed a noise system based on compressed air. The air is circulated through a large pipe in the upper story of the building by an air-compressor. Horizontal pipes of smaller diameter are extended from each of the upper windows. On the ends of each, pieces of soft rubber hose about 18 inches long are attached. The weight of the hose causes it to hang down