

ing our hawks as great boons to the farmer because of the great number of rodents found in their diets.

Could it be that we are too prone to condemn the whole group upon the basis of the undesirable habits of a few individuals and, at the same time, overlook the great good done by the many others of the same group?

So, until someone comes along with evidence based on established facts that will disprove my above-mentioned conviction, I am going to take my stand with the detested Starling which I believe was responsible to a great degree for ridding us of the Japanese beetle plague. If it is true that the Starling did accomplish this great feat, then I, for one, can overlook some of his less desirable traits and be eternally grateful for the one great service that he has rendered to all those residing within the area covered by the EBBA.

--323 Fenwick Avenue, Salem, N.J.,

August 16, 1954

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#### MORE ABOUT STARLINGS

Mrs. Bradley Fisk, Editor of Audubon Outlook, publication of the Buffalo Audubon Society, 20 Berkley Place, Buffalo 9, New York, writes as follows about Starlings:

"I thought you might be interested in the following note. What conclusion is to be drawn from it, except that, as a ham actor, perhaps, the Starling is pleased with the unaccustomed praise and attention he receives and comes back for a repeat, I don't know.

"In the last two winters, I have banded 131 Starlings in my city back yard in Buffalo. A Starling, once banded, rarely returns to my premises to feed, although several have been picked up dead in the neighborhood, so evidently they do not leave the locality. Only five have ever returned to my traps.

"Of the five, two had been used for demonstration purposes at Girl Scout meetings. One, yellow-banded to distinguish it, was released in Williamsville, about 10 miles north of my home, on January 26, 1953. Four days later, it returned to my trap as if to show me it could find its way around.

"Two days ago, I released a red-banded bird at a school on Grand Island, again about 10 miles distant. At 7:15 this morning (April 14, 1954), it came to my yard, went straight to the tray that holds my trap, and walked in! A return of any sort is so unusual that these two seem astonishing. I can't wait to be invited to another scout troop!

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#### WE'RE SURE OF HIS IDENTITY!

At the Washington Crossing State Park banding station operated by EBBA member Dr. Paul H. Fluck, and assisted by EBBA member Miss Jeanne Pitman, a banded Loggerhead Shrike is compared with his representation in Peterson's field guide for the benefit of one of the large audiences which attend the Saturday and Sunday afternoon demonstrations at four o'clock.