

the permanent resident population.

Considering the number of recoveries from Starlings that are shot, ten years seems like a ripe old age.

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#### MORE STARLING INGENUITY

By Mabel Gillespie

In the January-February 1968 issue of EBBA News, Connie Katholi wrote of the ingenuity of Starlings. I had a similar experience years ago. I was about to release a Starling, just banded, when it occurred to me that a friend whom I expected at any moment, would be interested to see banding technique. So I put it in a receiving trap and went into another room. In a moment the bird flew into the room after me.

There followed the difficulty of catching a bird loose in the house, after which I put the Starling back in the receiving cage. Again I left the room, but this time I peeked.

The Starling slid its long bill under the metal shutter and succeeded in bouncing it up a fraction of an inch, although it must have weighed almost as much as the bird. Then the shutter dropped on the bill. The bird continued the raising and dropping, establishing a rhythm. With each effort the shutter went a bit higher than before. Soon it was high enough for the bird to make a quick dive forward, to catch the descending shutter on its shoulders, and to escape with a final wriggle.

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Finally, from a recent letter to the Editor from Connie Katholi:  
"...I can't resist one last word to those trap-opening Starlings: Wish you'd learn to reset the triggers when you leave!"

