

birds detected borers by percussion, for a sound tree when struck gives forth a peculiar ringing note, while one whose heart is riddled with borers sounds dull and dead. The forester in this way is able to distinguish the unsound from the sound. It is possible that the bird with its sensitive beak may also feel the difference as does the expert physician in percussing a chest.—CHARLES W. TOWNSEND, 98 Pinckney St., Boston, Mass.

Habits of the Flicker.—On August 24, 1924, I observed at Guelph, Ontario, Canada, a Migrant Shrike fly into a small tree in which were four or five Northern Flickers as if it were about to attack them, but they paid no attention to the Shrike and the latter did not venture to attack, and in a few minutes a Sparrow Hawk flew into the tree among the Flickers and they paid no attention to the Hawk. A few minutes later the Sparrow Hawk flew into another tree upon which was sitting a male Northern Flicker. The Hawk flew to a twig within twelve or fifteen inches of the Flicker. The latter immediately faced about so as to point his long bill at the Hawk, but otherwise seemed to ignore the latter and remained motionless. The Hawk faced the Flicker for a few seconds and then began to preen its feathers and in a few minutes flew away leaving the Flicker undisturbed. In both cases the Shrike and Hawk swooped down on the Flickers as if they meant to attack and then hesitated and decided they had better not.—HENRY HOWITT, Guelph, Ontario.

Will the Starling Learn to Migrate in this Country?—During the last week of March and the first week in April, 1924, several interesting observations were made on the Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) on or near the Homewood Campus of Johns Hopkins University.

At the time mentioned, the Purple Grackles (*Quiscalus quiscula quiscula*) had already begun to arrive from the south. The flocks observed were usually small, numbering on the average about 20-30 birds. On March 30, 1924, it came as quite a surprise to discover that the Starlings were flocking with the Grackles in about equal numbers.

By the last of April flocking activities had largely given way to the preoccupation of nest life, for two nests of Grackles and three of Starlings were observed on the college campus. At the time, only brief notes were made of the incident and the matter then quite forgotten.

Upon returning to Baltimore (September 26, 1924) to resume academic activities, great flocks of Grackles were observed about the campus and nearby parks, and were reported to have been in the neighborhood in flocks for about three weeks previous to my arrival. Toward evening smaller flocks augmented the larger one already in the wooded section, and added their voices to the din of noisy chortlings made by the assembled birds. An estimate as to the numbers would probably be inaccurate, but there must have been at least three or four thousands of them. During the day the main flock broke up into smaller flocks of a hundred or more, and could be observed in various places on the campus at almost any time until the 18th of October when most of the birds had left the neighborhood.