

of finding some unusual birds about his barns. They were again observed on June 18 and 19, and on the latter date a nest was discovered in the cornice on the east end of a small barn, about 35 feet from the ground. Mr. Geiger helped me remove some shingles and we examined the nest, finding four pale blue eggs. The nest was composed chiefly of dried grass. On the 23rd a new roof was put on this barn, sealing up the opening to the nest, but we had previously arranged to remove a small section of a cornice board which would allow the birds to enter the nest cavity. This new opening was used from then on. On this date young birds were heard in the nest.

On June 25, Mr. Geiger and I removed the young for examination and found them to be about half grown. The adults were again seen feeding the young on the 27th. On the 28th, while observing the nest with Rev. O. W. Smith of Evansville, a second nest was discovered on the north end of a large barn, about 40 feet from the ground. This nest was also in a cornice. On July 3, Mr. Geiger and I examined both nests, finding only one young left in the first one. The bird was removed and banded. At the second nest we could hear the young, but from the entrance it was impossible to reach them without destroying too much of the barn. I visited the farm on July 18 and on August 22 but no birds were observed on either occasion. None have been seen by the Geiger family since these dates.

These nests were probably second broods, for during one of the early visits, one full grown immature bird was noticed with the adults. The plumage was distinctly different, grayish in color, and the bill was dark. I know of no other Wisconsin records for the Starling except two adults taken in winter and reported by Herbert L. Stoddard, (*Auk*, Volume XL, page 537). These are probably the first redorded nests for the state.—S. PAUL JONES, 425 Maple Avenue, Waukesha, Wis.

**Decrease in Starlings in New Hampshire.**—So far as I have been able to observe, Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*) seem to be decreasing extremely fast, although during the past two seasons their nesting activities have increased. In 1922 a few stragling individuals were seen in company with Crows about the middle of February, but only remained a short time and no others were recorded until the winter of 1923–24 when a flock of about 200 suddenly appeared apparently from nowhere and took up their abode here during Thanksgiving week. Since that time until last winter when I was unable to count more than 100 at a time, Starlings bore down upon us in flocks of 400, 500 and 600 each. They gleaned the frozen and rotted apples from the trees and the noise made by their whistles, squeeks, janglings and squawks was at times almost unbearable.

About twelve pairs remained to breed though I utterly failed to find their nests, and throughout the summer a few birds could be seen about the village. When winter came the Starlings appeared as before in flocks of hundreds foraging through the orchards of the surrounding hills,

but with the first warm days of spring the majority disappeared and when they came back the next winter their ranks were reduced at least one-half.

Two pairs bred in 1925 under the eaves of the barn, the birds forcing an entrance through the wooden shingles of the roof. In 1926, the same nest sites were used again but as soon as the young were on the wing they left the vicinity and up to this writing (October 20, 1926) no Starlings except a stray bird or two have been seen.

When nesting I noticed the birds jerking living leaves from the trees and carrying them in apparently for building material, and birds nesting in old Woodpeckers' holes in a nearby orchard carried chips and whatnot out of the cavities and stowed them away in crevices in the trunk of a birch tree where branches forked from the main limbs, one such place held a quart of material. The hole which they were excavating was found later to be seventeen inches deep.—LEWIS O. SHELLEY, *East Westmoreland, N. H.*

**Grackles Killing Young Pheasants.**—At my Game Farm on the Pickering Creek, in Chester County, Pa., we lost, in the Pheasant field, almost three hundred little Pheasants (*Phasianus*), a few days old, which were destroyed by Purple Grackles (*Quiscalus q. quiscula*). The male Grackles were the ones that did the damage. They came into the enclosure and simply took the heads off the little birds, leaving the bodies.

This happened during the end of June and the first of July, when the Grackles were, apparently, nesting in old cherry trees fairly close to the Pheasant field. We actually shot some to these birds in the act of committing the murder, and, as I said before, when we stopped them, they had killed almost three hundred. My observation makes me believe these depredations were confined to a few pairs of Grackles, and that this is not, necessarily, a general characteristic of this bird. This is the first time I have had any experience with them that was anything but to their credit.

Since writing the above I chanced to be looking over the August (1926) number of the 'Game Breeder' and on page 170 in an article by Lillian E. Beyers is an account of a Magpie attacking a hen Pheasant and killing some of her young and also the following statement: "I have also seen Blackbirds carry off baby Pheasants in alarming numbers. I found that the Blackbirds would fly down, pick the young Pheasant violently upon the head and hurriedly dismember it and carry it off to the trees nearby to feed a hungry nest of young of their own." The "Blackbird" referred to is obviously the western representative of our Purple Grackle, the Bronzed Grackle.—FRANK B. FOSTER, *1800 Morris Building, Philadelphia, Pa.*

**A House Finch Infected by Fly Larvae.**—Once in a while one can catch a juvenile House Finch (*Carpodacus frontalis mexicanus*) which has left the nest, but is still not able to evade capture by hand. About