

When I arrived at shore the bird seemed to be gasping its last few breaths. On stethoscopic examination, the heart sounds were barely discernible. We attempted an intra-cardiac injection of adrenaline which apparently had no effect. A second dosage still showed no change in the bird's condition, and shortly afterward it succumbed. Whether we did succeed in inserting the hypodermic in the heart muscle is a matter of conjecture. Then again, we employed a very small dosage of the drug, which might not have been sufficient.

We did not perform a post mortem, so I can not state in just what manner the trauma inflicted by the snake, caused the bird's demise. Nevertheless, I have never heard or read of any previous duel between these two animals, and thought this note might be of interest. The final analysis of the event would lead one to the obvious conclusion that the merganser had attempted to make a meal of the snake, with an unfortunate reversal!—DR. MALCOLM A. JACOBSON, 57 W. 57th St., New York, N. Y.

**Starlings catching insects on the wing.**—In summer, it is common to see the Starling (*Sturnus v. vulgaris*) catching insects on the wing as does a flycatcher around its perch. However, I believe it is an unusual behavior for the Starling in full flight to feed on insects, as is customary for a swallow.

On April 12, 1945, at the Quebec Zoological Garden, Charlesbourg, Quebec, I saw in the distance a flock of birds circling rapidly like swallows. Knowing that the swallows at that time were not yet back from their wintering grounds, I approached the birds more closely, and with my binoculars, at about 200 yards, I saw that they were Starlings. It was about 11 A. M., the sky was clear and the temperature was from 65° to 70° F. Many insects, mostly Coleoptera, were slowly flying about in the calm, warm air.

About 15 Starlings were flying at a height of 75 to 100 feet, circling overhead, but remaining in the same general area. Some were zigzagging, giving sharp and quick strokes of the wings at each turn; others, likely having missed their prey, fluttered their wings on the spot a few seconds, and shortly pursued the prey vertically toward the sky or to the ground in swift gliding flight. That performance lasted two or three minutes with the entire flock taking part in it. Later in the day, the same flight performance was repeated by single birds at or near the same place. The performance was not observed later in the season, though that particular flock of Starlings nested in the vicinity and was observed almost daily throughout the summer.—RAYMOND CAYOUILLE, *La Société Zoologique de Québec, Charlesbourg, Québec.*

**Birds that eat Japanese beetles.**—Although the Japanese beetle (*Popillia japonica*) has for some years been one of the East's worst summer insect pests, the only list of its bird enemies that I have been able to find is that of Hadley and Hawley (U. S. Dept. Agric., Circ. 332: 19, 1934), who term the Purple Grackle, European Starling, Cardinal, Meadowlark, Catbird, English Sparrow and Robin "some of the more important" feeders on adult beetles, and credit the grackle, Starling and Crow with feeding on larvae. I have already (Wils. Bull., 55: 79, 1943) mentioned the Wood Thrush (*Hylocichla mustelina*) and Louise F. A. Tanger (Bull. Lanc. Co., Pa., Bird Club, No. 7: 5-6, 1945, mimeog.) mentions the Brown Thrasher (*Toxostoma rufum*) as feeding on adults.

Observations in Baltimore in 1945 and 1946 enable me to add the Red-headed Woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*), Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*), Kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*), Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga olivacea*) and Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*) to the roll of feeders on adult beetles. Of these, the Red-headed Woodpecker has been the heaviest feeder; a few of the birds visited a badly infested elm