

is then built with small sticks and dead grass. They do not line their nest with feathers or down as is often done by small song birds. The inside of their nest resembles very much that of a Crow's nest and shows the efforts of a stable nest builder.

Usually two to six eggs are laid, and after due time the young are hatched. The parents carry food to them and take every good care of them. The young are thus cared for until their eyes are open and they develop strength enough to move about. At this point in their career the parent bird promptly weaves in sticks closing the holes. The young birds then become prisoners. Food is supplied to them through the cracks in the cage by the old birds. When the young reach maturity and are fully feathered and able to fly, the door is opened by the parents and the young go free. It seems that these young birds tend to leave the nest without the slightest hesitation, even long before they are fully feathered. Hence the old birds take this means to guard their young until they are able to care for themselves. This seemed to be the common practice with the Magpies in southeastern Washington, in the vicinity of Walla Walla; but I have also observed the habit in northeastern Washington, three hundred miles northward.*—A. C. STARRY, *Sioux City, Iowa*.

The Odd Behavior of a Stunned Ruffed Grouse.—One sunny afternoon last fall a female Ruffed Grouse (*Bonasa umbellus umbellus*), flew violently against our screen door and there fell to the porch floor. The impact was considerable, but the yielding screen must have broken the force of the collision somewhat, for the bird picked itself up and scurried under a porch seat, where it remained for about fifteen minutes. It then came out, walked to the corner of the porch partially screened by a climbing rose, and, taking a position there, remained for almost two hours, calmly resting.

An observer, seated in plain sight at a low window about ten feet away, kept the grouse under observation during the whole time, indulging in a long monologue directed at the visitor, including many sentimental assurances that a real refuge had been found. To all this the bird paid almost no attention, maintaining an air of complete indifference, and at times turning away its tranquil eyes as though unconscious of any human presence. The demeanor of the grouse expressed not only outward calm, but inward serenity.

Suddenly a cat appeared, passing along the sidewalk. Immediately the whole aspect of the grouse changed to one of alertness, as she shifted her position to keep the cat in range. Surely, now the bird would fly. But not so. As the cat trotted out of sight, the grouse settled down again to enjoy her sunny haven. It began to seem as though some serious injury might be the cause of her reluctance to leave. But evidently not, for as the afternoon waned and changed to dusk, the grouse hopped to the ground, stood around the door step for a few minutes, and then flew away on strong wings to a distant field.

Mr. C. W. Mayhew, who has hunted and trapped along this valley of Baughman Creek for sixty years, says he had not seen a Ruffed Grouse near this village for ten years. But not long after the incident related above, he flushed a pair in the valley back of my house.—MARCIA B. CLAY, *North Bristol, Ohio*.

*Apparently, however, the habit of closely imprisoning their young until they are able to fly and then suddenly liberating them is not general with the Magpie, as witness the preceding note. It would be interesting to know if any other ornithologists are able to corroborate Dr. Starry's observation.—Ed.