

The Peculiar Suspiciousness of Nesting Southern Meadowlarks.—The suspiciousness of the Southern Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna argutula*) about the nest is remarkable. On June 21, 1927, I found a nest of this bird that was all ready but the lining. This nest was built on the ground, among short grass which was bent over to conceal it. The bird was seen to alight on the ground, and after waiting a few minutes to give the bird time to reach the nest, I started for the spot where she had alighted. She did not flush there, but was finally flushed directly from her nest about fifty yards away from the place where she had alighted. I did not disturb the nest but returned on June 20, only to find the nest in the same condition as when I first had found it. Believing that she had built another nest I began to search, and was rewarded by finding another nest forty or fifty feet away, fully built, and apparently ready for eggs. This was in a similar situation. I did not come within five feet of this nest, in order to keep her from leaving it, but on returning on July 7, I found this one also was deserted, and no birds were to be seen or heard. Not to be hoodwinked I began another search, and soon found a third nest, not more than sixty feet away, in a very open spot, that could be seen some distance away. This nest was about ready, and was not touched. On July 16, 1927, I came back to see what had happened, and going back of the nest within a few feet had seen nothing of the birds; but moving to the entrance a bird hopped out, arose and flew a few feet, and then sneaked off through the grass, and was not again seen nor heard while I was there. The male was not in evidence. The nest contained four eggs, incubated about five days. In two other cases where I have found their nests with partial sets, I have returned only to find them broken or destroyed by these suspicious birds.—DONALD J. NICHOLSON, *Orlando, Fla.*

The Starling Nesting in Luce County, Michigan.—On April 22, 1928, I was in a woods about two miles south of McMillan, Luce County, Michigan, and saw two Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*) pass over towards the east. This is about one-half mile west of the place where I later found the species nesting. On the following dates, within one-fourth of a mile of the nesting site, I saw Starlings as follows: May 9, one; May 21, a flock of five were seen in the top of a beech tree at the edge of the woods at evening, of which, upon departing, two flew north and three flew east; May 22, a flock of three; May 23, one; May 24, two; May 25, one was seen in a roadside maple at 5:40 A. M., which sang a few notes, then flew westward over a barn and was joined by two others on its flight to the woods; May 26, two were seen to go to a tree where some had been noticed a few days before; and May 28, two were seen at the same place on a tree at the edge of the woods. On this latter date, at 5:27 A. M., I saw a Starling in the entrance to an old Flicker nesting cavity, that was deserted, I believe, by the Flickers. The top of this tree had broken off years ago, and while the ten or more feet of the trunk below the place where it had been broken off was dead and decayed, much of its lower part was living. The old Flicker nest was about forty-five feet up in the dead top of the tree.

As I had seen Starlings at that place on previous days, it may be that nesting began before May 28. I first noticed them feeding young on June 15, and on July 1 I noticed the young out of the nest for the first time. The Starling's nesting site is forty rods west of the lane where I have a number of bird houses, and about sixty rods west of my Purple Martin houses. Starlings were noticed only a few times feeding in the field near the houses. They usually took a course

to the northeast from the nest tree until about north of the lane, then to the east; and usually returned by the same course. On two occasions, I saw a Starling alight on the windmill, which when not in use is often used as a resting place by the Purple Martins. No attempt of attack was made by either species. Towards the end of the period that the young were in the nest, one of the Starlings was seen going to the potato patch, where it gathered potato bugs. To go from the nesting site to the potato patch, the Starlings had to pass over some of the Tree Swallow colony, and once I saw a Tree Swallow force a Starling to the ground.

After July 7, I did not see any Starlings until September 28, when two were seen in the dead top of a maple near the nest tree. On October 12, I saw a Starling on its usual course, and it went to one of the "lookout" trees where it remained for four minutes (7:16 A. M. to 7:20 A. M.), then flew back over the old trail to the east, the nesting site not being visited. It appears that this was one of the birds that nested there. My last record is of one seen on October 14, 1928, the bird having been seen one-fourth of a mile east of the nesting place. I shall be on the lookout to see if the Starlings return there to nest again next season.—O. M. BRYENS, *McMillan, Mich.*

A City Robin Roost.—During the early part of October, 1928, Robins (*Planesticus migratorius*) were seen flying in a southeast direction late in the afternoon. After observing several of these flights, the writer decided to look for a Robin roost.

On October 16, at 6:15 A. M. we were in an old orchard. It was a dark morning, and having heard only a few Robins we were becoming skeptical of our course. Then suddenly a commotion arose ahead of us and in the dim light we saw the birds rising from a plum thicket. They left in a steady stream, without exception headed northwest. They flew into the wind at an angle of about forty-five degrees and when they had gained an altitude of perhaps 200 feet they would strike out for their destination.

Some of the birds seemed a little uncertain about leaving the roost and would circle it a few times before following their fellows. The Robins continued to leave the thicket in an unbroken line until 6:55 A. M., by which time all but about a dozen birds had left the vicinity.

The return flight of the Robins began at approximately 5:15 P. M. The birds started to arrive at the roost in small flocks of twenty to fifty. By 5:30 P. M., however, the main flight was on, but differed from the morning flight in that the birds returned in flocks of 150 to 200, thus showing that they had scattered during the day. The general direction of the flight was from the north and west. A very few Robins came from the southwest.

The birds came in, flying at a high altitude, and would quickly break company and dive down in zigzag fashion to the roost. Sometimes a flock would fly in and light more gracefully in a nearby tree and then fly over to the roost. At 5:45 P. M. the birds had practically stopped coming, and were for the most part settled in the thicket, where they kept up an incessant calling and chirping.

The birds roosted about five feet from the ground and when they had once perched seemed to have little fear and allowed close approach, while in the morning they were quite wild. The roosting place was a very dense growth of wild plum trees about 150 yards long and 25 yards wide. The roost was located several blocks from any populated district and the birds were probably not