

## FLYCATCHING ACTIVITIES OF THE STARLING

WINSTON WM. BROCKNER

In September and October the Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) sometimes resorts to flycatching or swallow-like feeding activities. Kalmbach and Gabrielson (Bull. U. S. Nat. Mus. Vol. 197, p. 197) observed starlings capturing insects on the wing and appearing very much like martins. Beecher (Auk Vol. 70, No. 3, p. 322) says, "... forward vision and pointed wing pre-adapt the introduced starling in North America to take over the Purple Martin's niche when the latter flies south. On warm fall days, it feeds in the air, fluttering and gliding like the martin, but with frequent resting".

On September 10, 1953, I observed this behavior in large numbers of starlings. The activity stretched for over five miles between Hamburg and Woodlawn, New York, and was concentrated along the highways bordered with telephone poles. The birds would perch on the wires and poles and then sally out after passing insects. They rarely ventured over fifty yards from the road. Most of the feeding was at about wire height or a little higher. Upon capturing their prey they would immediately return to the poles and wires. Again, on October 7 while approaching Herkimer, New York I discovered smaller numbers of starlings flycatching. It is interesting to note that on both occasions this activity occurred in the afternoon.

This introduced species, though often a serious competitor of our native birds, sometimes helps in the fight against insects when our native flycatchers have departed for the south.

Buffalo Ornithological Society, Inc., Buffalo, N. Y.

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## PUBLIC RELATIONS AND RADIO

P. P. KELLOGG

One of the aims of the Federation is, or should be, to understand the problems of ornithologists better and to have these problems and the aims of ornithologists understood by the public. This is good public relations.

From the Laboratory of Ornithology at Cornell University a radio program on the general subject of birds, has gone on the air regularly once a week for over 20 years.

Recently this program has been expanded so that it covers the entire State through cooperation with the Rural Radio F-M Network in addition to the stations of Cornell University.

This weekly radio can be of great public relations value in the study of birds. Clubs of the Federation and individual members can help by sending in information about ornithological events to this program. It's a simple and effective way of letting others know what is happening in your community. Club meetings can be announced as well as field trips and the results of censuses.

The Eaton Bird Club of Geneva has by far the best record for using this medium in their publicity. Others should also take advantage of it to keep your community informed of your activities. A postal card will often suffice to get your message across — and it's quick and easy.

This program entitled *Know Your Birds* goes on the air every Saturday morning at 9:15 over the following stations:

WHL-D-FM—Niagara Falls—98 mc.  
WFNF—Wethersfield—108 mc. (Western New York)  
WHDL-FM—Olean—96 mc.  
WVBT—Bristol Center—95 mc. (Rochester)  
WRRR—Ithaca—104 mc. (also Elmira, Corning)  
WVCN—DeRuyter—105 mc. (Syracuse)  
WWNY-FM—Watertown—100 mc.  
WMSA-FM—Massena—105 mc.  
WRUN-FM—Utica-Rome—106 mc.  
WVCV—Cherry Valley—102 mc.  
WFLY—Troy-Alb.-Schen.—92 mc.  
WHVA—Poughkeepsie—105mc.  
WHCU-FM—Ithaca—97 mc.  
WHCU-AM—Ithaca—870 kc.

This program belongs to the people of the State and the Federation can do much to make it more effective.

Why not listen in next Saturday and then let us hear from you.

Laboratory of Ornithology, Dept. of Conservation, Cornell Univ., Ithaca, N. Y.

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## CLUB NOTES AND NEWS

At the annual meeting held on May 23, 1953, three additional clubs were elected to membership in the Federation:

*John Burroughs Natural History Society* of the region about Kingston, *Cornell Field Ornithology Club* of Ithaca, and *Lyman Langdon Audubon Society* of the region about Manhasset and Port Washington, Long Island.

In our last issue we published a list of the officers of the two former clubs. The officers of the *Lyman Langdon Audubon Society* are as follows:

President: Mrs. Mary L. Bonnewall, 249 Mill Spring Road,  
Manhasset, L. I., N. Y.

Vice President: Donald Ross, Bar Beach Road,  
Port Washington, L. I., N. Y.

Secretary: Miss Helen M. Graseck, 70 Davis Road,  
Port Washington, L. I., N. Y.

Treasurer: John F. Porter, 6 Beacon Hill Road,  
Port Washington, L. I., N. Y.

The total number of clubs now members of the Federation is *twenty-eight*.

Since our meeting, we have received a membership application from a twenty-ninth club recently organized in northern Westchester County, (in the neighborhood of Chappaqua, Pleasantville and Hawthorne), called the *Saw Mill River Audubon Society*. Its president is William G. Fennell, Esq., of 60 Broadway, New York, and he resides at 96 Sarles Lane, Pleasantville.

We welcome the new clubs and urge them to send us information regarding their activities.