

NOTES OF INTEREST

SHRIKE

On Sunday P. M., February 24, 1957, Richard Custer, a former student of Woodlawn High who lives at 8607 4th Avenue, North, called me about a strange "sight" at his home. He said he has a small plum tree in his yard which has a good many thorns on it. From time to time, he has found several things impaled on these thorns. Yesterday, he came home to find a Blue Jay partly, but enough to see that it was a jay, fastened there. He has found as many as nine small black snakes, but not all at the same time. There have been pieces of bread, cloth, and insects found from time to time.

Mrs. Matthew Wimpee, who lives at 508 South 60th Street, told about the same kind of "sight" last summer while we were at Nature Camp. She said she had found a snake caught on a thorn bush in her yard and wondered about it. One day as she lay on her bed resting she looked out the window and saw a "Butcher bird" fastening a small green snake on the thorn. Have any of you observed whether or not the Loggerhead Shrike ever returns to eat these things which he impales on thorns, fences, etc? Why not report your experiences?—Blanche E. Dean.

COTURNIX

Missouri, Tennessee and Alabama have had mass releases of the Japanese quail, *Coturnix coturnix japonica*. All are banded. These are migratory birds and some banded in Tennessee have been taken in South Carolina and Alabama. This quail resembles a Meadowlark in appearance and size without the white tail markings. The tail is very short and it has a buff colored, instead of yellow breast. The flight is different from the Meadowlark. Be on the lookout for these quail. Others are to be released this spring and summer.—Blanche E. Dean.