This songbird is called 'butcher'

TS interesting to me how so many things in this world have conversed. Things may be up or down, right or left, on well, establishing a bird feeding station is an enjoyable pursuit. All the different colors and the constant activity of the birds make feeding a pleasant family pastime. But just as we provide a buffet of food for seed and insect eating birds, the birds we attract provide a buffet for other birds — predators.

IT MAY BE hard to divorce our-selves from ascribing human values to these predators. We tend to call them "mean," especially when they feed on the birds we enjoy feeding.

read on the birds we enjoy feeding.
But predator-prey relationships have been going on for years without loss of any species (except when man interrupts the system). So don't be alarmed if a predator like a northern shrike visits your yard and takes a couple birds, as a Plymouth resident reported.

A shrike is a very interesting bird



__/ Nowicki

in its own right. It is the only preda-tory songbird. Its strongly booked bill and large head are two field characteristes that make it unique. Though smaller than a robin, they regularly capture small birds, mice and frogs.

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The Control of Con EVIDENCE OF one of two species of Michigan shrikes would be the impaled bodies of its prey in thorn bushes. Large prey are supported by tree branches or thorns while the bird feeds on it.

HOMES

They will also store food in this manner and return to it a week or so later. Lanter is the grows name of its shirtle. If a Latin for butcher.

Shrikes have keen eyesight and built during the day like hawks. Their feet do not have large talous like the typical birds of pre, However, a similar structural adaptation found on the bill of falcous and shrikes is used to sever the spinal column of prey.

shrikes is used to sever the spinal column of prev. Northern shrikes nest in northern Canada and sporadically migrate south during the winter. Their gray and black aperance is very close to their cousin, the loggerhead shrike, which will nest in Michigan but migrates south during the winter.

The writer is staff naturalist at Independence Oaks Nature Cen-ter.

DECKS



The shrike is the only predatory songbird. Smaller than a ro-bin, it can capture small birds, mice and frogs.

Young Lawyers to party

The Young Lawyers Committee of the Oakland County Bar Association will holds it's fourth annual Spring Party starting 8 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 25. Place is St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress (between Beaublen and Brush), Detroit. Dance music will be provided by Trade Secret.

Admission is \$12. Beer and wine will be served. A cash bar for cock-talls will be available. Proceeds after expenses will go to the Baldwin Human Services Center benefits. Detroit be some and shelter to the homeless. Dance music will be provided by Trade Secret.



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