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Shrike news  
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Loggerhead shrike

### Shrike News

Have you seen the photo of the shrike? This afternoon, as I was making a sandwich in the kitchen, a frighteningly loud blast of noise burst through the kitchen window, "SQUAWK, SQUAWK, SQUAWK! It was so loud that I expected to see the noise maker sitting on the kitchen faucet!

It took a second for me to realize that the raspy, ear drum bashing squawk was the shrike. No gentle multi-tone "queedle" from this bird! It had to be right up against the house inside the vine- covered trellis. I tiptoed outside and sneakily peered inside the trellis but didn't see the shrike until it flew in a loud fluttering of wings from inside the trellis somewhere.

I thought I had chased it off, but it circled around and landed in the pine tree not very far away from where I stood. Clearly, it planned to stick around and was undaunted by me.



Quietly I went back in the house to leave the shrike alone.

As I returned to my half made sandwich, I was startled again and nearly hit my head on the ceiling by "SQUAWK, SQUAWK, SQUAWK!!!" once again right outside the window. No amount of peaking out the window has revealed the bird's whereabouts.

I can't help but be a little tickled that the shrike likes being here. There are a few grasshoppers and locusts around and lots of moths not to mention a couple varieties of sparrows and the sparrows and water are, no doubt, what has lured the bird here. I am just amazed at how such a small bird can be so incredibly LOUD, and it sounds just like someone on a rampage of cussing! I hope it leaves my little sparrows alone but it can have all the bugs it wants!