

## STARLINGS

Common Name: starling

Other Names: European starling

Scientific Name: Sturnus vulgaris

Appearance:

size	- blackbird sized, about 3 ounces in weight
color	- black with purplish overcast and light speckles
	- bright yellow bill spring and summer, gray at other times

Range: - statewide

Habitat: - occur in a wide variety of habitats, common in urban and agricultural areas

Diet: - variety of seeds, small fruits and insects

Reproduction: - build loose nests inside natural and manmade cavities  
- lay 4-7 eggs twice per nesting season

Behavior: - form large flocks when not nesting  
- often roost together in dense foliage at night  
- frequently very vocal

Problems: - eat cultivated fruits and sprouting vegetables  
- dropping damage and deface buildings, landscaping and other property  
- droppings may transmit disease to humans, livestock and pets  
- may enter buildings and eaves to nest

Solutions: - holes used by nesting birds should be securely closed to prevent further access  
- trees used by roosting birds should be selectively pruned to reduce cover  
- fruit crops should be covered by bird netting  
- lethal control methods where legal to reduce populations

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Legal Aspects:

- no state or federal laws regulating harvest or otherwise protecting this species
- use of poisons requires a permit from the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission
- check local ordinances before lethal methods are employed