

#### RAT AS BIRD PREDATOR

On October 31, 1964, at Cavan, a Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) was seen to fly into a clump of wild artichokes growing on the roadside embankment. The artichokes formed a rough circle with 2-3 feet of bare ground in the centre. Almost immediately I could hear the bird's distress call and on going to the scene found that the bird had been seized by a large rat. The animal had taken the bird across the neck just in front of the wings, which were flapping loosely. The rat then moved under cover of the artichokes.

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