

Reflections for the LAAMB

The other day before breakfast I came into the Kitchen and looked out the window. Lore has me trained to look out the window to look for birds. As I looked out the window, there must have been over two dozen birds on this line that led to our neighbour's house which was across the road.

Lore came into the kitchen seeing me intently looking out the window. She asked me what I was looking at.

"I am looking at all those birds on the line." I replied. Lore took one look then responded, "Those are starlings, not one of my favourite birds. They eat too much and keep other birds away." I continued to watch them, while Lore left to go downstairs to put in the laundry.



I kept looking at them because I was fascinated by a pattern I discovered in these birds. It was one of our coldest mornings. Three of the birds would fly into the side of the house where there was a small opening. They would be there for 2-3 minutes and then the three would fly out to the line sitting with the rest of the birds. Then another three birds would fly into this opening in the side of the house. Again 2-3 minutes later they would fly back out to the large flock. Then a different set of three would fly into the house. This patterned continued as I watched these birds for twenty minutes. Lore came into the kitchen seeing that I was still watching the birds and said, "What so interesting about those starlings? Then I told her about the pattern of behaviour of these starlings. I wondered if they were getting warm inside that house opening for a bit then came out to let a few others go in. I was also very interested that they were not fighting but took turns. I wondered if they were that smart.



So I decided to Google "Starlings" on the computer. This is some of the information I gathered from

Wikipedia. *What Makes Starlings Unique?*

They are intelligent birds who engage in a variety of unique behaviors that allow them to thrive in their environments. The starlings are generally a highly social family. Most species associate in flocks of varying sizes throughout the year. These flocks may include other species of starlings and sometimes species from other families. This sociality is particularly evident in their roosting behaviour; in the non-breeding season some roosts can number in the thousands of birds.

I thought it was interesting that starlings like to roost. As I thought of this Pandemic time it made me wonder if we too are called to roost. Often, before this VIRUS-19 came into our lives, I remember most people's response when I would ask them how they are doing was, "I am really busy". Whether we are retired, have a young family or are widowed it seemed that we were all so preoccupied in our lives with keeping busy. Maybe we can learn something from the Starlings. Maybe we need to use this time to roost



by reconnecting with family, slowing down our lifestyles and taking time to live in the present moment.

Pastor Perry