

sparrow field, sets up his nets across the field and then with the aid of his companions drives the sparrows down the field towards and into the nets.

10. Decoys, bait, dripping water, etc. near the nets add to the take. A legitimate caged bird such as the canary will often make an effective decoy. Also a native bird with a loud chip, such as the Redstart or the Hooded Warbler, may be held briefly in a carrying cage near

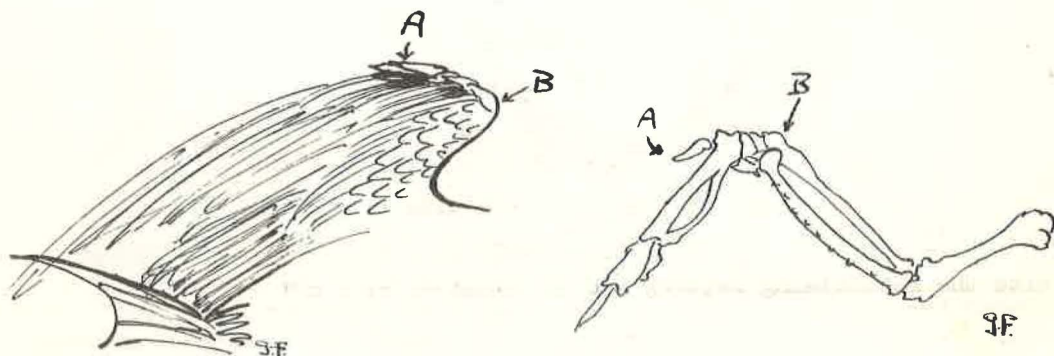


Fig. 2. "A" above refers to the vestigial thumb; "B" to the elbow of the wing. After untangling the legs and feet, the wings must be freed by easing the net strands over the elbow, taking care that they are removed also from the feathers attached to the vestigial thumb bone.

the net. Screech owl imitations and other bird-luring calls will bring the birds nearer the net and increase their chances of being captured. Certain birds like the Myrtle Warbler are easily lured to the net site and with each additional capture, the excitement grows more intense and nearly the whole flock may be taken.



Fig. 3. A net strand occasionally gets caught behind the cleft at the back of a bird's tongue. After tension has been released from the strand, a pencil or similar instrument can be used to work the strand back and off the cleft.

11. One last suggestion - it sometimes happens that a bird will bite the restraining netting and in doing so will get the net caught in behind its tongue. Always be sure that a net strand is not caught in the cleft of the tongue before attempting to remove the bird from the net.

My thanks to James Baird for his suggestions and assistance in writing this paper. ★★

#### CHANGES AT DEMAREST, N. J.

By Beecher S. Bowdish

Demarest is a part of an extensive area, adjacent to New York City, whose natural wildlife has been definitely and adversely affected by the overwhelming overflow of alleged non-wildlife from the metropolis! As a random sample of the effect wrought on native wildlife by introduced ?-life in superabundance, with resulting elimination of available homesites for the original furred and feathered inhabitants, a contrast is here presented of banding records for July and August, 1950, before the effect of the human influx made itself felt, and the corresponding period of 1956.

The strength of attachment of birds to a homesite where they have reared young is illustrated by an example related to me some thirty years ago by John Hendrickson, one-time Olympic shotgun

champion. An area of marshland was filled in and a house built in the period between one summer and the following spring, when a Florida Gallinule returning to its erstwhile homesite, paced the newly created dooryard, back and forth, vainly trying to reconcile the present home with the well remembered one of last year.

The July and August, 1950 banding record of the Bowdish station follows, coupled with the record of those months in 1956:

Species	1950			1956		
	July	Aug.	Both	July	Aug.	Both
Mourning Dove	1	1	2	2	4	6
Flicker	0	1	1	1	0	1
Downy Woodpecker	0	1	1	-	-	-
Bluejay	38	35	73	101	28	129
Black-capped Chickadee	0	3	3	0	1	1
Tufted Titmouse	3	9	12	4	1	5
White-breasted Nuthatch	1	0	1	-	-	-
House Wren	3	1	4	-	-	-
Catbird	41	21	62	21	23	44
Brown Thrasher	15	9	24	13	14	27
Robin	28	35	63	29	18	47
Wood Thrush	10	8	18	3	3	6
Veery	0	1	1	-	-	-
Starling	3	8	11	4	11	15
Yellow-throated Vireo	0	1	1	-	-	-
Black and White Warbler	0	4	4	-	-	-
Blue-winged Warbler	1	7	8	-	-	-
Black-throated Green Warbler	-	-	-	0	1	1
Chestnut-sided Warbler	0	4	4	-	-	-
Yellowthroat	0	2	2	-	-	-
Canada Warbler	0	4	4	0	1	1
Redstart	0	7	7	-	-	-
Red-winged Blackbird	5	0	5	4	0	4
Baltimore Oriole	2	6	8	-	-	-
Purple Grackle	2	27	29	45	29	74
Cowbird	17	10	27	3	23	26
Scarlet Tanager	1	7	8	-	-	-
Cardinal	0	1	1	-	-	-
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	3	2	5	1	0	1

Purple Finch	0	1	1	-	-	-
Towhee	22	13	35	13	4	17
Song Sparrow	14	23	37	2	4	6
Lincoln's Sparrow	-	-	-	0	1	1

We thus have a total of birds banded in July-August, 1950, of 547; the same months of 1956 show 417, a falling off of 130. The total of species represented in these two months was for 1950, 31; for 1956, 19, a corresponding slump. It is significant that warbler representation in list of banding for 1950 showed six species; in 1956 only two; individuals in 1950: 30; in 1956: two. In the days of yore the Blue-winged Warbler was an abundant, unfailing summer neighbor; not one has been seen or heard this year!

Song sparrows were once among our "highs"; as the current year's records show, in part, they hardly show in record; of the total six, four may have been the product of one secretive nesting pair? The large bulk of the species that made up our banding lists of the years ago, are, in greater or lesser degree, by data, examples of how fearful increase in genus Homo has been accompanied by shocking decrease in our avian fauna! Such species as do not definitely support "slump" records seem to be those which can most easily adapt themselves to total change. ★★ ★

THE RING  
New International Bird-Banding Periodical  
A Review by John V. Dennis

Readers of Ebba News will be interested to know that there is now a periodical on the international level devoted to bird banding. It is a quarterly publication known as The Ring. The Ring, now in its second year, is edited and published by Dr. W. Ryzewski, 1 Altyre Road, Croydon, Surrey, England. A year's subscription may be obtained by sending \$2.50 to Dr. Ryzewski. In this writer's opinion The Ring is not only worth getting, but should receive more notes, news, and short articles from this side of the Atlantic. The coverage is world wide, but until U. S. banders become more familiar with the publication, it will not be truly representative.

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