

IRIS: The very last part of the bird to assume the adult color. Generally, the upper fore part of the iris is the last to change.

BLUE JAY: Mouth lining is pale in immatures. It becomes black in mid-fall, or occasionally later.

NUTHATCH, both **WHITE-BREASTED** and **RED-BREASTED:** Males have black caps, females have gray caps, from ten days of age onward.

BROWN THRASHER: Immatures have brownish eyes until early September. A straw-colored eye is definitely immature; a chrome yellow eye in fall may be immature or adult.

SCARLET Tanager: White under wing coverts; beak shorter and heavier.

SUMMER Tanager: Yellow under wing coverts; beak longer, not so heavy.

DICKCISSEL: Dull birds closely resemble dull House Sparrows, but the shape of the tip of the tail feathers is distinctive. In dickcissels, it tapers moderately to a sharp point. In House Sparrows it is cut off virtually square, with a little rounding on one corner.

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK: The pink wing linings on immature males are yellow in the immature females.

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK and **RUFIOUS-SIDED TOWHEE:** The black pigment in first year feathers is less stable, and thus fades quicker. The primary coverts and the primary tips exposed to the air and sun become faded, while unexposed portions of black feathers remain black. These feathers are retained for the first year, and thus can be a very distinctive mark of subadult males.

SLATE-COLORED JUNCO: Difficult to age or sex, but generally speaking birds with wings longer than 75 mm tend to be males, and those with wings shorter than 75 mm tend to be females. The eye is gray in juveniles, gradually becoming reddish. The upper fore part of the iris is the last to become reddish.

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ROBERT PYLE'S PRIZE TRAP

EBBA members who attended the Banquet at this year's Annual Meeting will recall the very fine one-cell Potter trap generously given to me as "second" prize in the bird-guessing contest. Thus it might be of interest to relate the follow-up story about the first bird that trap caught for us. We did not put the trap to use right away, but a couple of weeks

later my wife, Billie, received a phone call about a strange bird at a feeder in nearby Chevy Chase. After more phone calls involving lengthy descriptions of the bird, Billie, who does much of our banding, took the trap and joined another bander friend with trap at the site the next day. Although the bird was almost ridiculously unafraid of people, it cleverly kept out of reach and out of the traps.

As a watched pot never boils, so the bird seemed destined to remain untrapped, as the banders watched longingly. Eventually, they retired to another part of the house, but later, when the traps were checked again some hours after original set-up, Eureka! the bird was safely captured in the EBBA prize trap. There followed a quick dash down to the U. S. National Museum where Dr. John Aldrich confirmed the identification, and also, alas, pointed out that the condition of the bird's legs strongly suggested that it had only recently escaped from captivity. Undaunted, our friend, Mrs. Georgia Buck, banded the bird and released it shortly afterward in a fine wild area along the Potomac River.

So what was this first bird caught in the EBBA prize trap? It was a brilliant male Hooded Oriole, a species normally occurring only in the far southwestern U. S. as a summer visitor from Mexico.

I. B. O. R. - OCTOBER, 1964
From Walter Bigger's Letter to the Editor

Peggy and I had quite good luck. We banded 4805 birds in 2811 net hours. We were pushed on 5 October by a Creeper-Kinglet flight, with 169 Creepers and 79 Kinglets. Total for that day was an even 600.

You've seen the mass flights so there's nothing I could add. While I was there we did not have them as in former years. We just had birds all day long! On October 15 we banded 514 and never used a collecting cage! Birds never started moving until after 0900, and it continued until 1600 that afternoon. It was a real pleasure to find birds in each net every time you checked. Saw my first Song Sparrow flight -- we banded 142 on 14 October. We had back-to-back days on 14-15 October of 476 and 514.

Never had a Junco flight -- only 2 days of more than 100. Hermit Thrushes and Myrtles were steady the last 10 days. Most unusual catch was 5 Hooded Warblers, 2 on 4 October and 3 on 18 October. Bruce Adams also caught 2 and Fred Mears 1 on the 18th. I'd caught them here at home but never so many at Island Beach.

The only birds I'm chasing now are wild turkeys. The residents here awoke to a rude shock the day we left for Island Beach. At 0300 I caught a small bear helping himself to the suet in a woodpecker feeder. He'd already "fixed" some feeders and spread the incinerator around a bit. We've spent the past 3 weeks trying to woo back our regulars.

Star Route, Trout Run, Pa.