

gusts of north wind. Swallows were driven from their lofty aerial hunting grounds to practically ground level to hawk insects in the lee of hedgerows. This brought them into netting range. 27 birds of ten species were banded.

Saturday dawned calm and clear; but for May 27, a temperature of 39° F. was a bit cool. It did not discourage bird song, however. By noon it was a more normal 65° and 91 birds were banded, including 33 Bank and Tree Swallows, and 28 warblers of eight species. Examining the first spring-plumaged Blackpoll Warbler I had ever seen in the hand was rewarding. About two thirds of the two-weekend take of 409 captures were weighed, far-classed and measured. A total of 329 birds were banded, and 22 returns and 58 repeats captured.

Thus, if you're in a rut thinking about what fall O.R. stations have to offer, try a change of pace by visiting such a station this spring. You may be delightfully surprised not only at the change of scenery, but the assortment of birds and their spring plumages. It will arouse your senses, unless you are already spoiled with such delicacies in your own backyard. In addition, the differences you observe may start you thinking seriously about why the spring and fall migrations differ at the same location, and may lead to a detailed study of the matter. Besides, it's lots of fun.

1527 Myron Street, Schenectady, N.Y. 12309



#### GRACKLE SURVIVES WITH BROKEN MANDIBLE

By Dorothy Briggs

On July 24, 1964, I captured an adult male Common Grackle (743-63524) with a wide slash arounds its neck on which the blood was newly coagulated. This bird had half of the lower mandible roughly broken off, and the remainder split. The tongue was exposed over one-half inch. I hesitated to band it, but finally decided to do so, although I expected to find it dead in a short time.

Imagine my surprise on April 24, 1965, after a fall and spring migration period, to find this same bird in a trap. The lower mandible was now much worse, and the upper mandible had several splits in it. The feathering around the scar on the neck was grayish-white. The bird was in a trap again on May 22, 1965. I have never received any recovery of it thus far, but at least I know he lived for ten months under these conditions.

11 Carpenter Street, Middleboro, Mass. 02346