

Checking with Roberts' Manual for Identification of Birds of Minnesota, Merrill-Wood's Bird Banders' Guide to Determination of Age and Sex, and Bent's Life Histories of North American Woodpeckers gave us no concrete help. Roberts says "the red comes in gradually on the head, and also on the throat of the male - before the black breast-patch develops." Merrill-Wood indicates all birds will (by Jan.) have some red on the head. Bent hints that "progress toward maturity continues all fall, winter, and early spring ..., but I have seen birds that had not fully completed this pre-nuptial molt by the end of April." (The underlining is mine.)

We labeled all three birds U U.

--3166 Merrill, Royal Oak, Mich. 48072

# AN UNUSUAL MYRTLE (YELLOW-RUMPED) WARBLER

By M. J. Wolcott

Michael came in from the nets and showed us only the back and tail section of the bird in his hand. From the color and markings, and the tail pattern, we named it a Myrtle Warbler (*Dendroica coronata*). He then shifted his hold on the bird to reveal the head and neck to the shoulders. These feathers were entirely white, surrounding the usual yellow crown patch. Iris was black. Upperparts were bluish gray, striped with black; underparts white; heavy black striping on side of belly; two white wing bars; three outer tail-feathers on each side with the usual white spots; the four yellow spots were bright; and feet and legs were black. There were no face markings at all. This occurred on May 18, about 7:15 A.M. at Bradley's Marsh, Ontario, on the southeast "corner" of Lake St. Clair. We banded this "Michael Myrtle" with No. 1300-22009 and labeled him AHY M. His wing chord was 70mm.

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# SCARLET TANAGERS WITH WING BARS?

By M. J. Wolcott

On May 13 five Scarlet Tanagers (*Piranga erythomelas*), four male and one female, were banded at Bradley's Marsh. This banding station is in southwestern Ontario. The first male received No. 107-019742. The wing chord measurement of 95mm was recorded. The solid black wings were scarlet wing bars. Everyone had a good look, notes were written on the record sheet, and the tanager was released.

The next male tanager had solid black wings, no wing bars. The third, No. 107-019748, with wing chord of 97mm, also had red wing bars. The last male, later in the day, had no wing bars.

Dwight, in Sequence of Plumages and Moults of the Passerine Birds of New York, says of the First Nuptial Plumage, "It is not unusual for

only a part of the wing coverts or tertiaries to be renewed and as a freak, scarlet coverts are occasionally assumed." We have pictures of these birds.

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# FREDDIE BLUELEGS

The Lazy Oriole  
by Kendrick Y. Hodgdon

Storm clouds gathered all day. The parent orioles continue to feed their young in the top of a split-leafed maple tree, unaware of impending doom. Sometime during the night, the wind picked up, the nest swayed, thunder pealed, and lightning split the sky, lighting the area as if it were day. The winds increased, the rain came down in torrents and suddenly the nest started to tear, ripping away from the slender branches on which it was so carefully anchored. The female oriole rattled an alarm and the male replied from his perch nearby. One more huge gust of wind and the nest tore free, falling over 50 feet to the ground, as the lightning flashed. The female flew out and joined her mate. The next day they selected a tall black cherry tree for their new nesting site and started in again, the tedious task of delicately weaving their complicated nest.

The next morning, a neighbor lady picked up the nest of five baby orioles, all calling for food. These were the same five young orioles that were brought to my house this spring.

Last season, four young orioles were brought to me also, which I raised by feeding them raw hamburger, kitty vittles, egg yolk, gravel, and cod liver oil. Another one had been brought in two days later, but I had noticed its eyes were closed, yet it would grab food away from the others. It appeared otherwise healthy and ate well, but in the morning, it was dead. The next day, one of my four orioles had its eyes closed and acted healthy, but on the following day, it also died. I segregated the other three and succeeded in raising them and seeing them off as young adults. They would follow me around outside for a few days, then gradually they left the area, one by one.

This year, a pair of orioles are nesting in our maple tree and I wonder if they, or one of them, could be one of our young ones that we hand raised last season. I have tried to catch them in my mist net, but so far, I haven't succeeded.

Having successfully raised those three orioles last season, I again started with my five new babies by feeding them chopped raw hamburger, cooked egg yolks, and strawberries, then cherries, some blueberries later on, and raspberries. I remembered the kitty vittles and fed it to them, but one morning, all the babies refused it and instead readily accepted the strawberries. Perhaps they decided as a group that they were birds,