

references that I have consulted. It would be interesting to learn more about the publication of this historic work.—JOHN T. ZIMMER, *American Museum of Natural History, New York, N. Y.*

**A Convenient Method of Confining Live Birds for Weighing.**—Bird students interested in obtaining data on weights of live birds are often surprised at the scarcity of such information. This is particularly true of small song birds despite the fact that many of these are trapped and banded. Difficulty in holding birds still while weights are taken has, perhaps, accounted for the fact that weights are often not taken, even by active bird banders.

For keeping birds comparatively motionless while being weighed, thick-walled glass tubing, cut in six-inch sections and open at both ends, has proved very convenient. Birds are inserted into the tubing head first, and, after weights are taken, they may be easily shoved through and released. While confined within the tube, they cannot move wings or legs to any great extent, and there is small chance that they will be injured in the process.

A set of three glass tubes, of 1.0, 1.25, and 1.5 inch diameters, is sufficient to handle practically all small birds. Weights of the empty tubes may be scratched on with a diamond point. Tubes are easily carried in the slotted pockets of a jacket. Plastic tubes are, of course, lighter, but they collapse easily, and are more subject to breakage.

Small boxes have often been used for confining live birds during the weighing process. These are bulkier than glass tubes, and there are greater chances that birds will escape while being inserted into, or released from, a box. The method described above seems to obviate many of the difficulties which have prevented the collecting of weight data.—MAURICE BROOKS, *Division of Forestry, West Virginia University, Morgantown, West Virginia.*

**Young Bluebird Taken from Nest-box by Sparrow Hawk (*Falco sparverius*).**—On June 10, 1950, I noticed a female Sparrow Hawk on the top of a Bluebird nest-box located on a pole 100 feet from my residence. The hawk was eating a small bird which proved to be one of the three fledgling Bluebirds known to have been in the nest.

I secreted myself in a building 50 feet from the nest, and after a few minutes the hawk returned, landed on a projection below the box entrance, and tried, by extending its foot into the box, to extract another bird. This time the parent birds noticed the intruder and succeeded in driving it away. As soon as the old birds left the vicinity of the nest the little falcon returned, this time to be immediately attacked and driven away by a Kingbird. It did not return again that day, but an inspection of the box the following morning showed but one fledgling, indicating that the other one may have been taken in the early hours.

I then removed the perch that the hawk had used when reaching into the box, and without which I doubt if it could have secured its prey.

The remaining young bird was still in the box a week later.—HOWARD DRINKWATER, *Old Road, Whitehouse, New Jersey.*