

sweet, wild cherries, and other fruit-trees would make good bait if a suitable trap could be designed.

Most of these observations have been made many times by every bird-bander; but as experiences are seldom exactly duplicated, I hope that these brief notes may give new suggestions to some members of the bird-banding fraternity.

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A NEW HOST FOR THE BLOOD-SUCKING LARVA FLY, *Protocalliphora splendida*

BY HARRY E. WOODS

On June 25, 1925, while examining young Barn Swallows (*Hirundo erythrogastra*) in the nest, I found them infested with parasites (larvæ), which for lack of a better name were termed at the time "wood ticks." Nine of the parasites were found on one young Barn Swallow, and from one to four on the others occupying the same nest. They were firmly attached externally on the throats and breasts and were difficult to remove.

On July 7th, the next day on which I examined young Barn Swallows, I found still more specimens of the same larvæ, and several of these were sent to Mr. Charles W. Johnson, of the Boston Society of Natural History, who pronounced the imago of one, which had passed through two additional metamorphoses during the lapse of a month which had intervened between the time the larvæ were sent and their study by Mr. Johnson, to be a male blood-sucking larva fly, *Protocalliphora splendida*. Mr. Johnson also reported that this fly had not been previously found on the Barn Swallow.

As in the previous instance the larvæ under consideration were attached to the throats and breasts, and also a few were found on the tops of the heads. These young swallows were watched until they left the nests, and on two other occasions larvæ were removed. I captured several of the adult Swallows but found them free from parasites. After the young had left, the nests were examined and found to contain a number of "shells" which I judged were the cast off pupa-cases. In each instance where larvæ had not been found on the entire brood of young, I had an opportunity for comparing the condition of infested birds with those not infested with these

larvæ. The birds infested were much smaller and in poorer condition than those free from parasites occupying the same nest, and would no doubt have perished had I not removed the cause of their trouble.

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GENERAL NOTES

Bronzed Grackle Recoveries.—In examining the banding and return records for the years 1920 to 1923 published by the Biological Survey, it is interesting to note that of the number of Bronzed Grackles (*Quiscalus quiscula aeneus*) which have been banded eleven recoveries have been made, and of this number all were taken in the same State in which the birds were originally banded, with the exception of bird No. 103739 banded by the writer in Auburndale, Mass., on September 11, 1922, and taken on November 7th of the same year in Elizabeth, N. J.

In addition to these, the following records can be cited:

Grackle No. 260701, banded in Auburndale, Mass., August 13, 1925.
Taken at Benns Church, Va., November 29 of same year.

Grackle No. 215472, banded in Auburndale, Mass., October 20, 1923.
Taken at New Haven, Conn., November 13 of same year.

Grackle No. 411692, banded in Auburndale, Mass., September 2, 1925.
Taken in Wellesley Hills, Mass., September 24, 1925.

Although the number of recoveries of Grackles banded by the writer is very meagre, they indicate a southwesterly migration along the Atlantic Coast.—CHARLES B. FLOYD, Auburndale, Mass.

Bird Parasites.—The nesting-season of 1925 at my station at Peterboro, N. H., has been productive of many bird parasites, as was the case in 1924, and my records show that a new host (the Purple Finch, *Carpodacus p. purpureus*) was found for the fly, *Ornithomeyia anchineuria*, as identified by Mr. Charles W. Johnson. The fly was found on a bird-of-the-year.

This parasite survives, at summer temperatures, for at least seventy-two hours after removal from its host. One placed in a refrigerator for an hour at a temperature of 46°, while benumbed, quickly recovered on being warmed up. For an insect believed to pass its life in a notably sedentary manner, this species possesses flying ability of a high order. Though the parasite may leave its host momentarily, when the bird is handled in banding, and may fly to a nearby window, it often darts back again to its host with such extreme quickness that one sees only its disappearance into the feathers. On one juvenile Chipping Sparrow four of this species were found.

The much less common bird fly, *Ornithoica confluenta*, infrequently found in 1924, was not uncommon in 1925, seven being discovered on young Song Sparrows.—HELEN G. WHITTLE, Cohasset, Mass.