

A26762, first taken on March 14, 1926, is at least 1 year and 9 months old on this date, if he assumed his mature plumage last August, when he was 1 year and 2 months old. How much older he is than this, of course, we do not know. As will be noted from the table, this method of reckoning minimum ages is applied to all adult males whose banding date as such is known. The table on page 35 gives the weights of 16 adult male Purple Finches in detail, and also their ages as far as we possess any information.

It is too early to attempt to draw other than tentative conclusions from these figures. It has been ascertained that certain olivaceous Purple Finches which seemed heavier and larger in the hand than the majority of this species similarly colored are so in fact. Six of such olivaceous birds have an average weight of 27.00 grams, 0.65 grams less than the average weight of the adult males. This greater weight may have sex significance, or it may be simply individual variation. Further work by banders in weighing birds, over longer periods of time, and particularly dealing with birds of known age and sex, will be necessary before true averages shall be had.

Cohasset, Mass., March, 1926

GENERAL NOTES

Banding a Mockingbird.—On the 23d of last October (1925) a Mockingbird was discovered feeding on asparagus berries in a garden in South Windsor, Connecticut. A few days later it was found in another garden near the home of Mr. W. S. Farnham. It soon developed a fondness for the suet which had been put out for the birds, and, evidently thinking this was a good place in which to spend the winter, remained there.

As the days went by, it became more and more tame and friendly and went to the feeding-shelf on the kitchen window-sill for water. Seeing it pecking at some orange peel that had been thrown out one day, Mr. Farnham put half of an orange on the tray, and the bird ate it eagerly. Since then water, apples, oranges, suet, meat drippings, and corn-cake have become its regular diet.

In order to learn something of the habits of Mockingbirds in New England it seemed wise to attempt to band this bird, so on January 20th (1926) I set my trap for it, baiting it with half of an orange. The Mockingbird was not in sight when the trap was set, but five minutes later it came and alighted on a branch of the tree over the trap, which it eyed curiously. Presently it dropped down on top of the trap. Seeing that it could not get at the orange from this position, it hopped down back of the trap and deliberately walked round and entered. The string was pulled, and the bird was a captive. The bird did not appear disturbed by the banding and was back feeding in less than half an hour.

Aside from one slight accident this Mockingbird has survived the cold and severe storms of the winter well. On one cold morning he dipped his

tail in the pan of water and then as he fed it froze to the tray. When he flew away two tail feathers were left on the tray.

We are hoping that the bird will either remain here or return next winter.—LUCY STROCK CHAPIN, Hartford, Conn.

White-throats in Cohasset, Mass.*—Except near the coast-line the White-throated Sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*) is a very uncommon winter resident in Massachusetts, at least in the latitude of Cohasset, approximately 42° 15' north, and even in Cohasset the number of birds wintering is variable, never large and often they are practically absent. The winter season of 1925-26 is one of great scarcity of this species. Whether or not White-throats winter in Cohasset appears to depend on the shuffle and deal of the various factors collectively called weather affecting their southward migration. In migration periods, however, many of this species are observed. Unavoidable weather conditions during the fall migration, such as heavy and early snows, are believed to be the main reason why this species is fairly common during some winters. Conversely, a warm and stormless fall appears to make for few White-throats in Cohasset the following winter, and such, as we have just said, is the present winter season.

A study of our banding records during four winter seasons, beginning with the season of 1922-23, shows thus far no evidence that certain birds or groups of birds of this species regularly travel either north or south *via* this locality, and the same is found to be true at other Cohasset stations. We have had, however, two White-throat returns, or to be more exact, one return and one return² out of a total of 59 birds banded prior to the present winter season. White-throat No. 66584, banded February 20, 1923, returned January 8, 1924; and No. 37603, banded November 11, 1923, returned January 25, 1925, and again January 1, 1926. No. 37603 appears to have wintered during the three seasons that the bird has visited Cohasset.

The inconstancy of wintering birds of this species in Cohasset no doubt accounts in large part for the small number of returns secured. Were the station situated within their regular wintering range, more birds and more returns would be probable, and in this connection attention is called to S. Prentiss Baldwin's observations at Thomasville, Georgia, where a wintering group of White-throats occupied a particular clump of shrubbery for several successive seasons. Here a Sparrow banded in 1916 returned in '17, '20, and '21 (see *The Auk*, Vol. XXXIX, p. 216). Four Sparrows out of six banded in 1916 returned in 1917, or 66.66 per cent (see *The Auk*, Vol. XXXVIII, p. 236). —MR. AND MRS. RICHARD B. HARDING, Brookline, Mass.

Sight Repeats.—At my station in Cohasset, Massachusetts, colored enameled bands have been placed on Purple Finches, Goldfinches, Juncos, Tree Sparrows, Downy Woodpeckers, Siskins, etc. Most of these birds were banded during last fall and winter seasons.

Birds at this station are fed and trapped at an average distance of less than twenty feet from the house. A feeding-shelf beside the window, mounting a small, non-automatic trap, is much frequented by birds, and a large percentage of those banded at this station were taken in the shelf trap. Thus by concentrating the trapping and feeding places in a near-by

* This note has been somewhat elaborated by the Editor.