

will observe more closely the condition of nestling birds. If any infestation is noticed, I should be very glad to obtain the old nests and the larvæ and pupæ associated therewith, as a better knowledge of the injury done to birds by these blood-sucking larvæ is most important.

BANDING OF YELLOW WARBLERS IN NOVA SCOTIA

BY R. W. TUFTS

ONE of my most interesting experiences in five years of bird-banding has developed in connection with a family of Yellow Warblers (*Dendroica a. æstiva*), a pair of which nested on my premises at Wolfville, Nova Scotia, in 1925.

In May of that year a female Yellow Warbler built a nest in a climbing crimson rambler rose bush on the west side of my house. On June 28th, the day the young left the nest, I was in close attendance and immediately collected the little chaps from their various hiding places about the shrubbery and banded them (Nos. 30877-30880). An effort was then made to get a close-up snap-shot of the parent bird or birds, and the young were retained in my hand while I sat on the lawn about ten feet from the recently vacated nest, and within proper range of the camera. The female was in evidence practically every moment with food in her bill, but despite the plaintive food calls which the young were constantly emitting, she would not come nearer than eight or ten feet and kept frantically attempting to induce her family to leave my hand and follow her. These attempts failing, she would finally, in desperation, swallow the food herself and fly off for more, returning almost immediately to repeat the drama.

In the midst of this performance the male alighted on an electric light wire immediately over my head, and sang. I noticed that he was carrying a small green canker-worm in his bill, and when he had finished his brief song he dropped to the edge of the nest and peered inside, evidently surprised to find it empty.

At the first chirp from one of the young he flew directly from the nest toward me and to my astonishment settled on my hand and deliberately proceeded to feed two of the babies with the worm, which he had still kept in his beak. This accomplished, he paused before taking flight and calmly wiped

his bill, both sides, on my thumb. During this episode the female continued fluttering about, simulating a broken wing and general distress, all of which antics the male absolutely ignored. In about fifteen minutes he returned to the wire with another mouthful, sang and immediately dropped directly to my hand, this time feeding the other two. He showed absolute unconcern for my presence, returning at regular intervals all through the morning, apparently taking the unusual circumstances as a matter of course, while his spouse continued to display hysterical dissatisfaction with the whole proceedings. Several photographs of the male were taken during the feedings. I transferred the young to the toes of my shoes later on—two on each foot,—where they settled down with every appearance of contentment, continuing to take food with evident enjoyment at every visit from their busy parent.

The next problem was how to capture the adults for banding.

A "pull-string trap" was arranged, the young being placed under it in full view, with the result that on the next feeding visit the male was secured and promptly banded with No. 8396A. How to catch the temperamental mother was another matter. She kept fluttering about the vicinity of the trap, eagerly trying to induce her offspring to "come out from under", which they kept spasmodically attempting to do, keeping us busy replacing them. Luck, however, presently favored us where strategy had failed; for she flew by accident in through the open door of the sun-porch, where she was readily captured against the glass and banded with No. 8395A.

About May 15th of the current year (1926) a pair of Yellow Warblers appeared in our garden, and on June 6th the female had completed her nest in a climbing rose a few feet from last year's site. Close inspection revealed the disappointing fact that she had no band. A few days later, however, a close-up of the male provided an opportunity to note the familiar aluminum marker on his leg, and we felt reasonably certain that this was one of our last year's family, either the adult male or one of the young. It was not, however, till this year's young had left the nest and the trapping device was again resorted to that we were able to determine definitely that this was No. 8396A, the adult male of a year ago.

The new mate was apparently a vast improvement over last year's choice, at least from our point of view, revealing by contrast a placid and tractable disposition. She showed no hesitation in entering the trap and was banded with

No. 42827A on July 5th, on which date the young were also banded (Nos. 42823A-42826A).

We are eagerly awaiting the 1927 arrivals and indulging in speculation as to the likelihood of our No. 8396A's returning either with this year's mate or a new one. It is also our intention next summer to make a survey of as many nesting pairs in this community as possible, with a view to determining if any more of our banded Warblers have returned to this particular vicinity. Further observations in connection with this interesting experiment will be recorded and published from time to time.

Wolfville, Nova Scotia.

TREE SPARROW RETURNS AND MIGRATION*

BY WENDELL P. SMITH

THIS paper is a further development of two articles published in the *Bulletin of the Northeastern Bird-Banding Association*: one by the author entitled "A Study of Tree Sparrow Migration in the Connecticut Valley", the other entitled "Tree Sparrow Returns: A Comparison," by Mr. Richard Horsey, of Rochester, New York.

The stations have points of resemblance and of dissimilarity. The Connecticut Valley at Wells River is comparatively narrow, the enclosing ranges of hills being from one to three miles apart. Altitudes of fifteen hundred feet or more are reached within ten miles of the river. The Genesee River south of Rochester flows through flood plains. Wells River is about sixty miles farther north than Rochester. Both are in the Transition Zone, but Wells River, being located at the end of a narrow tongue of this zone which extends for some distance up the Connecticut Valley, has a slightly boreal avifauna. Rochester has a slight admixture of Carolinian forms.

At both stations the first Tree Sparrows to appear arrive between October 22d and October 28th. These apparently are birds of passage, as they disappear usually within a week. Several weeks elapse before the appearance of the wintering

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