

**A Permanent Resident Song Sparrow.**—Among the birds frequenting my feeding station during the Spring of the year 1925, there was a pair of Song Sparrows. Both of them and two of their young ones were soon caught and banded and my station record of the two parent birds is interesting insofar as it establishes the male bird as a permanent resident.

These Song Sparrows mated for two consecutive seasons, and in 1925, as well as in 1926, they raised a Cowbird. In 1926 the Cowbird was incidentally instrumental in establishing their second mating, for it was caught first when it was being fed under the trap by the female and six days later when the male was found feeding it.

I am convinced that the male Song Sparrow remained with me already through the winter of 1925-1926, but in 1925 I was not successful in trapping it after November 15. In 1926 it repeated on December 17. In both years the male bird did not repeat for a considerable period after the moulting season and I believe that during that time it must not have been in the immediate vicinity of the station.

The complete record of the two birds is as follows:

No. 159929—Male—Banded June 10, 1925; mated with No. 159926 and parent bird of No. 159927 and 159928. Repeated Nov. 15, 1925; returned May 5, 1926. Repeated June 8, June 13, June 26 (feeding Cowbird No. 251681), August 1, August 19 and December 17, 1926.

No. 159926—Female—Mate of No. 159929 and parent bird of No. 159927 and 159928. Banded on May 24, 1925. Repeated May 29 and June 28, 1925. Returned May 5, 1926 and repeated May 22, May 23, May 30, June 5, June 20 (feeding Cowbird No. 251681), August 4 and August 28.—K. W. BAASCH, Baldwin, N. Y.

**Malformation of a Downy Woodpecker's Bill.**—A female Downy Woodpecker (No. 70429) when banded on March 27, 1926, at Cohasset, Massachusetts, was described in my notes as "a very sooty bird," meaning that the visible white feathers of the under parts were much soiled, presumably by contact with bark or decaying wood. As Woodpeckers living near my station come in contact with smoke-begrimed trees owing to their nearness to the railroad, it is possible that certain birds become unusually soiled from this cause, although some of them appear immaculate the year round.

The upper mandible was distinctly abnormal in shape in that for its entire length it was nearly flat, straight, tapering in width, and growing a little out of parallel with the lower mandible, making an angle therewith of approximately seven degrees, so that the tips were somewhat separated.

During the summer months the bird was not observed about the station, but on November 13th she again reported for suet, still in the same sooty plumage and with her upper mandible nearly twice as long as the lower one and curved downward near the tip well below the lower mandible. She restricted her feeding when seen to a large lump of suet placed on a tray, having, however, much difficulty in manipulating the material. From this date to December 6th she was at the station several times daily, and it was apparent that the upper mandible continued to increase in length, and the bird's increasing difficulty in feeding herself was manifest. On this date it was decided to trap her and remove the superfluous portion, and this was done, the amputation being effected with diagonal pliers. The portion removed was sharply decurved and somewhat twisted, with a single shallow longitudinal channel below, measuring .65 inch, almost exactly equalling the length of the normal culmen of this species.

At the time of banding, her weight was 27.75 grams, and when recaptured she weighed 28.50 grams, showing that she was well nourished. It is doubtful, however, if she could have fed herself properly on the normal food of the species gleaned in the customary way.

The next day after the operation, she had regained her old-time feeding-habits and at the same time a renewed self-assertion not observed during the previous month.

On December 24, 1926, it was apparent that the culmen was already considerably longer than the lower mandible. As seen with bird glasses the disparity amounted to about one-eighth of an inch—CHARLES L. WHITTLE, Cohasset, Massachusetts.

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**Nestling Sparrow Hawks** (*Falco s. sparverius*). One evening last May my friend Mr. George C. Deane, of Cambridge, told me that a pair of Sparrow Hawks had nested under the eaves of his house and were then feeding their young. I had always coveted a pet Sparrow Hawk and asked if it would be possible to reach the nest.

A few days later he told me that the young birds were visible at times and seemed pretty well fledged. A long extension ladder being available, I decided to try to get one of the young birds.

The nest was built just below the wide overhanging eaves, where a rain-conductor passed down between two supporting brackets. The nest itself was a flat platform of rubbish on the bend of the pipe and the young might easily have fallen to the ground. Four partly fledged nestlings, with stubby wings and tails, and still showing considerable white down, were in the nest. There were three females and one male, showing the characteristic sex differences plainly. I banded all four birds and put two of the females back, keeping a pair. These two birds are shown on the cover of this *Bulletin* as photographed two days before flying; the female on the left and the male on the right. The markings on their under parts indicate the sexes, the streaked bird being the female and the dotted one the male.

It was interesting to note the difference in disposition between the two birds as their feathers rapidly developed. The female was much wilder from the start, and squealed loudly when approached. The male was very docile and would have made a delightful pet, I am sure, but unfortunately he escaped about a fortnight after he had developed his flying powers. I kept the female a few weeks longer and then released her.

The birds were marked with bands credited to Mr. George C. Deane and two of them left the nest in Cambridge, Mass., in June; the other two were released from my summer camp on Lake Asquam in New Hampshire.—JOHN B. MAY, M.D., Cohasset, Massachusetts, January 1927.

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**Interesting Returns.**—As far as we know, a Tree Sparrow banded by Mr. R. E. Horsey, of Rochester, New York, in January, 1923, and one banded by Mrs. Mary E. F. Hubbard, of New Haven, Connecticut, and recovered by Mrs. Cora M. Teot, also of New Haven, are the two oldest birds of this species in the country, the birds being at least four and a half years old. Mr. Horsey's bird has been recaptured at his station four consecutive winter seasons and accordingly is a return the present 1926-27 season. Mrs. Teot's recovery was banded by Mrs. Hubbard February 24, 1923, and was recaptured for the first time on January 2, 1927.