

shown on the front cover of this number of the *Bulletin*. At this age they are very active and alert. They even made ludicrous efforts at "rattling," like their parents and seemed ready to leave the nest very shortly.—KATHARINE C. HARDING, May 30, 1927.

Minute Observations on the Manners of Birds.—Possibilities of studies of the *manners* of birds are opened up by bird-banding, and ought to draw from bird-banders more accounts of the little superficial ways that are so interesting and picturesque and help in gradually building up a better understanding of the psychology of birds. In the last number of the *Bulletin*, Mr. Forbush, after listing problems for attack, touched on the point that I am speaking of in his closing paragraph: "The individuality of birds, i. e. the difference in the temperament, habits, etc. of individuals". Mrs. Robinson gave an example in the same number in her vivid, picturesque account of the relations between nesting Chipping Sparrows and Tree Swallows. I like to keep creatures in confinement a few days to familiarize myself with their attitudes—if nothing else; and some feeding and banding stations afford opportunities scarcely less favorable for minute observations than captivity affords.

I would instance the case of a Hermit Thrush that I banded during the severe snow-storm of April 19, 1925. It might almost be assumed to have been grateful for care in captivity at that time. Its gentle beauty disinclined me to free it for some days, and it fulfilled my expectation of a winning personality in its perfect elegance. This Thrush did at first, it must be confessed, display alarm at the great bulk of a human being just on the other side of the wires, but it soon discovered that it could spend its time placidly in the midst of abundance, with none of the perils of the wild to startle it,—at least so I interpreted its adaptability. Then in place of thrashing wildly, it adopted an amusing systematic exercise,—a circuit of the cage done at speed, springing up from the floor to perch after perch in succession, over, across, down, and so on over and over again. The cage was almost three feet square. Every position of the bird was graceful, so that it was fascinating even in its quietest moments. A favorite pose was cocking up the tail like a Wren and holding the wings slack. It ate with avidity—nuts, corn-meal, house-flies, cheese, butter, grape-fruit, and strawberries. Its prevailing note was the pleasing, clear, uninflected whistle of deep tone, "tōōp"; variations of this note were a sharpened version like a Hyla's cry, and a sweet, scarcely audible "tyōōk". This "Tyōōk" might be said in turn to be akin to the less musical "chōōk" which this bird also gave. On two occasions when I was by, it indulged in singing, and never was a song more exquisite; this was as perfect as when ringing through the forest, but was given in a tone so soft that I strained my ears to listen, as if to a bird far off. The sixth morning the Hermit awakened me very early, with a louder, sharper version of its whistled call, through two closed doors, and it meant business, for it reiterated this note with a fierce insistence until freed. I imagine that another of the race had communicated with it from outside.—F. B. WHITE, Concord, New Hampshire.

Some Additional Bird Weights.—In this Bulletin for April 1926, pp. 33-36, the weights in grams of a considerable number of species were published, the number of individuals weighed being too inadequate, how-

ever, to furnish average weights of species or sexes, the Purple Finch receiving most attention.

In the following tabulation a series of weighings of larger birds, such as the Robin, Catbird, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, White-throated and White-crowned Sparrows, not previously published, are included, and also the weights of two species of the genus *Spizella*,—the average weight of fourteen *passerina*, 13.00 grams, and one *pusilla*, 12.00 grams. Where the sexes are known their weights are given separately, and as species.

In the first paper the average weight of forty-five Purple Finches was given as 25.79 grams. In the table below the average weight of 326 birds of this species is found to be 23.89 grams, doubtless a more accurate figure. The average weight of seven Song Sparrows (see footnote p. 34) was given as 24.28 grams, but the results of weighing twenty-nine of this species is an average of 22.52 grams. Twenty-two Chickadees averaged 11.92 grams, and thirty-nine average practically the same, 11.72 grams. These latest figures of larger numbers of birds show that individual variations in weight are too great to determine correct averages from weights of a small number of birds. The Chickadee, however, seems to be an exception to the rule.

The tabulation follows:—

	Sex	No. Weighed	Average Weight Females	Average Weight Males	Average Weight Both Sexes
Phoebe (<i>Sayornis phoebe</i>)		1			20.00
Chebec (<i>Empidonax minimus</i>)		1			9.75
Purple Finch (<i>Carpodacus p. purpureus</i>)		326			23.89
White-crowned Sparrow (<i>Zonotrichia l. leucophrys</i>)		4			34.12
White-throated Sparrow (<i>Zonotrichia albicollis</i>)		11			28.68
Chipping Sparrow (<i>Spizella p. passerina</i>)		14			13.00
Field Sparrow (<i>Spizella p. pusilla</i>)		1			12.00
Slate-colored Junco (<i>Junco h. hyemalis</i>)		13			21.00
Lincoln Sparrow (<i>Melospiza l. lincolni</i>)		1			21.00
Song Sparrow (<i>Melospiza m. melodia</i>)		29			22.52
Rose-breasted Grosbeak (<i>Zamelodia ludoviciana</i>)	♂	6		46.83	48.27
Rose-breasted Grosbeak (<i>Zamelodia ludoviciana</i>)	♀	7	49.50		
Catbird (<i>Dumetella carolinensis</i>)		15			39.05
Chickadee (<i>Penthestes a. atricapillus</i>)		39			11.72
Robin (<i>Planesticus m. migratorius</i>)	♂	3		71.66	
Robin (<i>Planesticus m. migratorius</i>)	♀	2	73.00		72.196

C. L. WHITTLE.