

Two New Chipping Sparrow Age Records.—The answer to the question: How long do birds live? is in the way of being answered. Mr. Edmund P. Brown of Belfast, Maine has a return Chipping Sparrow banded June 19, 1924 as an adult. It returned in 1925 and a second time on May 23, 1927, when it was at least four years old. Its history came to a tragic end on that date when it was killed by a cat.

A second Chipping Sparrow record was sent E. H. Forbush by M. J. Magee of Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, who on May 17, 1927, took as a return a bird banded July 15, 1923, now at least five years old.

J. T. Nichols in this number of the *Bulletin* cites a record, published by F. C. Lincoln, of a bird of this species also known to be at least five years old.

Two Ruby-Crowned Kinglets Banded.—On October 13, 1926, two Ruby-crowned Kinglets (*Regulus c. calendula*) were taken together by William P. Wharton of Groton, Massachusetts, in a drip water-trap of the type designed by Richard B. Harding, having a depressed hopper-like opening in the top. These birds appeared to be alone. They were without the concealed ruby crown patch and were therefore females or immature birds.

Some Chickadee History.—Chickadee (*Penthestes a. atricapillus*) No. A26560 was given a red band on right tarsus on July 19, 1925. This bird, a young-of-the-year, followed two banded adult birds to a trap in July of that year and entered with them, all three being captured, the old birds previously having been given bands Nos. A6011 and A6012, and they were probably the parents of A26560. These two old birds had been coming to the station at intervals all through the nesting season, as only near-by nesting birds do. They were banded October 2, 1924, within ten minutes of each other. A6011 has not been captured since March 28, 1926, but during the nesting season of that year (1926) A6012 came to the station with A26677 wearing an orange and red band on the left tarsus, and they were presumably mates although none of their young was seen. They continued to come to the station with others during the fall of 1926 and the winter season of 1926-27.

By April 15, 1927, most of my wintering Chickadees had left the station for parts unknown, leaving behind only four of their kind, evidently two mated pairs which up to May 16th have appeared together many times.

On May 12, 1927, A6012 was seen feeding A26677 on the window feeding-shelf, the latter quivering its wings begging for food. From this exhibition I felt reasonably sure that A6012 was the male bird, but doubt was thrown on the matter the next day when A26677 was seen feeding A6012.

While not conclusively established, it seems probable that Chickadees A6012 and A26677 are now mated for their second nesting season.

Chickadee No. A26560, red right, is mated for this season with A54195, banded October 17, 1926, and up to May 16, 1927, they also came to the station together many times daily, but by the 24th A26560 came much less frequently.—CHARLES L. WHITTLE, Cohasset, Massachusetts, May 24, 1927.

Banding Parula and Cape May Warblers.—On May 13th, 1927, a mild sunshiny day, there were many Warblers and other birds around our yard and in the surrounding yards feeding in the cherry, apple, plum

and poplar trees. In the morning I noted among others a Cape May and some Parulas, and I was hoping they would stay about until afternoon as I expected some guests "to see a demonstration of bird banding". My wish was granted, for the birds stayed here all day.

At 3.30 P. M. a male Parula Warbler was captured in my pull-string open-top trap (with water drip), and fifteen minutes later we banded a male Cape May Warbler. Thirty minutes later we secured another male Cape May, and as we had kept the first one to show our guests, we carefully compared them and discovered that A34582 was less bright than A34581, but both were unmistakably males. At five o'clock another Parula was banded. The two Parulas were not compared, but they also were both males, even though they had only a faint black band on the breast.

The cherry trees are twelve feet from the veranda where we were observing the birds, and the open-top trap stands on the ground under a plum tree twenty feet farther away. These Cape Mays were the first of this species banded here, my total species banded now standing at fifty-one.—(Mrs.) MARY E. F. HUBBARD, New Haven, Conn., June 3, 1927.

Distribution of the April 1927 Bulletin.—Readers of the *Bulletin* doubtless noted our change of policy as set forth under the heading "Announcement" in the last number, namely to open our pages to any one wishing to publish articles or notes calculated to advance the science of Ornithology by bird-banding methods. In order that bird-banders in this country and in Canada should be advised of this fact, arrangements were made with the Bureau of Biological Survey to distribute copies of that number to all banders in the Eastern, Inland and Western Bird Banding Associations, the *Bulletin* going out under government frank with an accompanying letter from Mr. W. C. Henderson, Associate Chief of the Bureau. About ten hundred and fifty copies were thus distributed to the three associations mentioned, this Association supplying them gratis.

A Query Regarding Purple Finches.—It is a remarkable fact that during five nesting seasons at two banding stations where opportunity to observe Purple Finches at short range is perhaps unsurpassed, I have never seen an olivaceous bird of this species, an immature male, courting another olivaceous Purple Finch. If, as it is believed, this species mates when the birds are in their first winter plumage, it is strange that no case of the kind referred to has ever been recognizably seen by me. Furthermore, I have never heard to my knowledge an olivaceous Purple Finch sing the familiar, ecstatic warble of the "rosy" male. Many times, both in Peterboro, New Hampshire, and in Cohasset, Massachusetts, on hearing such a song, I have searched out the singer and have invariably found him to be an adult bird. Mrs. Whittle has on the contrary on one or two occasions seen instances of a courting olivaceous bird and has heard such birds sing the ecstatic warble of the old male. That many olivaceous birds presumed to be immature males sing is obvious. Before nest building begins, such birds sing all about my Cohasset banding station, on the ground, shelf and feeding tray, but the song is very different from that of old males, a simple song, of six or eight notes, familiar to many, a song much less frequently heard about my station during nesting time.

The question I would like answered is: Why, since the number of living