

young or immature males must be large, do we see so little evidence of their courting or mating, one of the familiar sights among rosy males?

This note is published in the hope that those of our banders who have had an opportunity to study this species at nesting time will write me in what degree their experiences coincide with or differ from mine.—C. L. WHITTLE.

---

**Concerning the Nesting and Trapping of the Barn Swallow.**—During 1925 only one pair of the Barn Swallow (*Hirundo erythrogastra*) nested in the hay loft of my barn. In the spring about the time Swallows first appeared, I selected a few small pieces of board, about one inch by one inch by three inches and nailed them to the sides of the rafters as a support for possible Swallows' nests. When a pair of these birds appeared, they appropriated one of these rests and built a nest on the north side of the rafter, about five feet from the north wall and about five and one-half feet above the floor. In this nest five young were raised, and on July 9, 1925, they were banded, Nos. A1105—A1109.

Going to the loft on July 13, 1925, after dark, I found a male Barn Swallow roosting on an old discarded window sash, which hung upon a nail on the wall of the barn loft, about five feet from the nest. I walked up to it with a flash-light and took it in my hands, and banded it. I then attempted to catch the female, but she flew and disappeared out of the window. The following evening, July 14th, having prepared a net of mosquito netting, I again went to the loft. The male was in his former position on the old window sash, and the female with the young were in the nest. Approaching the nest quietly, I slipped the net over the nest, and secured and banded her, No. A1114.

I have had in mind a Swallow trap to be made of cotton mosquito netting, fastened to a hinged frame of flexible copper-wire so made as to be easily screwed to the rafters or timber of a barn below a nest. This device could be operated as a pull-string trap, to catch the adult birds, but I have had no opportunity to try it out.—GEORGE E. ALLEN, Whitinsville, Mass.

---

**A Black-throated Blue Warbler Return near Lake Asquam, New Hampshire.**—On the twenty-eighth of June 1926, I banded a female Black-throated Blue Warbler (*Dendroica c. caerulescens*) with number A65065 (a plain band), and her mate with a scarlet band number A15649. Their three fledglings were also banded when eight days old with numbers A65063, A65064 (uncolored) and A15646, a blue band.

On June 1, 1927, I found a newly finished Black-throated Blue Warbler's nest about a quarter of a mile from the nest occupied by one of the above family banded in 1926. A blind was erected from which to make detailed observations of the nesting habits of the species.

A clutch of four eggs was completed on June fifth and the female commenced incubating them. The first time I saw her leave the nest I observed that she was banded. Three eggs hatched on June eighteenth, the fourth being sterile. On June twenty-sixth, when the female was brooding the well-grown young, and while the sun was shining on her band, I approached within five feet of the nest and with powerful binoculars read the first two figures on the band, "65", thus identifying her as A65065.

When I entered the blind on June twenty-eighth at 5.30 A. M., the nest was empty, the young birds having left the night before. In a few minutes, however, I located and captured two of them "chipping" in

the laurel, about twenty feet from the nest. They were placed in a gathering cage, weighed, measured, and the details of their plumage recorded.

My Chardonneret trap containing one fledgling was next placed near the blind with the result that the male was quickly trapped and banded with a rose-colored band, number A15648. Half an hour later the return female was trapped, and her number, A65065, which she wore on the left tarsus was confirmed. At this time I banded her right tarsus with a rose-colored band, number A15642, in the hope of getting a "Sight Return" of her next year.

The three fledglings of this year's nest wear numbers A15644 (yellow band left), A15645 (yellow band right), and A15647, a blue band.

So far I have not seen her last year's mate.—KATHARINE C. HARDING, June 28, 1927.

---

**A Plea for More Bird-Weighers.**—The heaviest adult Song Sparrows I have banded were captured at Cohasset, Massachusetts, in early April 1926. These ranged in weight between 25.00 and 27.00 grams. In her journal such birds were described as "large and rangy" by Mrs. Whittle, who has banded several during the late fall (October) migration in Peterboro, New Hampshire, but they were not weighed. Such birds in all cases have passed through our stations as migrants and none has been captured as a repeat or a return. In a paper appearing in *The Auk*\* I have called attention to such unusually heavy birds and raised the question whether they were not representatives of a northern race of this species, not collected on its breeding grounds, but appearing in our museums (collected in migration) as the largest specimens of the Eastern Song Sparrow. It has been stated that a variation in the measured parts of birds of 20 percent may be expected.

It is presumed that Song Sparrows having measurements much in excess of the average are also heavier than the average. Acting on this theory, I have begun an investigation of the average weight of *nesting* Song Sparrows both in Peterboro and in Cohasset, and to date eight such birds have been weighed, the range in weight being from 20.00 to 22.00 grams, and the average weight being 21.09 grams, or four to five grams less than the heavy birds taken in April. The sexes of these birds were not determined. It is too early to make any inferences from these meagre data. All eight birds are feeding daily at our banding stations, a surplus of canary seeds being always available so that the birds are not likely to be underweight.

The writer would like assistance in this investigation by having others of our members take up bird-weighing in general as a part of their regular work. Balances, sensitive to fractions of a gram, are not expensive. Live bird-weighing is a rather neglected ornithological field. I feel sure that the determination of the average weights of locally nesting birds of many species throughout their ranges, itself well worth finding out, will furnish in addition information of value at present not easily foreseen.—CHARLES L. WHITTLE, Cohasset, Massachusetts, June 1927.

---

**A Chebec Recovery.**—Mr. A. W. Higgins reports the recovery of a Least Flycatcher, or Chebec, (*Empidonax minimus*) near Lake Assawompssett, Middleboro, Massachusetts, on June 4, 1927. This bird was banded

---

\*"On the Nature of the Relationship existing Among Land Birds During Sustained Aerial Migration", Vol. XLIII, 1926, p. 498 (foot-note).