

Tree Sparrow examined in life tend towards an erect position, often forming a sort of fringe along the upper edge of the band.—C. L. Whittle, Peterborough, N. H.

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**Purple Finch's Nest-Building Ceremony.**—Upon waking at 5 A. M. I became aware of an ecstatic bird-song with which I was completely unfamiliar. Crossing the room very quietly, I saw a pair of Purple Finches facing each other on the floor of the piazza. The bills of both birds contained nesting-materials, and the male was executing a dance with half-open wings, moving forward and back in front of the female, which stood watching him from a distance of about fifteen inches. The feathers on his head were partially erect, which gave him a crested appearance. As he moved to and fro, he sang an ecstatic song which seemed distinctly different from his ordinary one, with which I am familiar. When the ceremony was completed, both birds flew into the woods carrying the nesting materials in their beaks. They both seemed entirely unaware of my presence.—KATHARINE C. HARDING, Holderness, New Hampshire, May 30, 1928.

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**A Return-4 Chipping Sparrow.**—L. B. Fletcher reports a Chipping Sparrow, No. 125271, banded at Cohasset, Massachusetts, August 21, 1924, which has returned to his station four consecutive seasons, the returning yearly dates given in their proper order being May 8th, 9th, 11th, and 15th. This bird is approaching at least its fourth year.

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**Another Tree Sparrow Recovery of Importance.**—The Rev. George E. Allen sends word that a Tree Sparrow banded by him at Whitinsville, Massachusetts, on February 1, 1928, was caught by a cat belonging to Mrs. G. A. Beals, at Green, Maine, April 24, 1928. This record supplements a previous one of similar import reported in the *Bulletin*, Vol. I. No. 2, 1925, page 33, of a Tree Sparrow, No. 67250, banded by Mrs. F. D. Hubbard at New Haven, Connecticut, January 31, 1923, and recovered by Prof. Frederick A. Saunders at Kittery Point, Maine, March 30, 1925. Both these recoveries are unmistakable instances of birds taken in their spring migration to their breeding-grounds, and, as far as they go, they show a northeasterly migration-route along the Atlantic seaboard. The records also emphasize the fact that it is only the lack of a sufficient number of banding stations in the country that makes it so difficult to trace a species' migration-routes to and from its nesting-grounds. It is right here that the amateur bird-bander has an opportunity to help work out the important matter of migration-routes, rate of migration, etc.—THE EDITORS.

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**An unusual Sight-Recovery Record of a Purple Finch.**—One of my photographs of a banded Chickadee, made in Cohasset, Massachusetts, showed two whole figures of its band-number and a portion of a third figure sufficient to enable me to determine positively the whole number, thus making it a photographic repeat. It has remained, however, for Dr. Francis Harper, of Natick, to record the first recovery made by actually reading the band-number on a visiting bird without handling it. Dr. Harper writes as follows regarding the matter: "On May 5 and 6, 1928, a

banded male Purple Finch came to my window feeding-shelf at Natick, Massachusetts. By watching through the window at a distance of about a foot, I finally made out the number on the band as 122109. I also made out something like Bu. Biol. Surv. above the number." The Biological Survey supplied the information that this Purple Finch was banded by Mrs. Jean E. Carth at Wellesley, Massachusetts, an adjoining town on the east, May 5, 1926.—C. L. W

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**Collecting Birds' Nests for Entomological Study.**—Mr. Charles W. Johnson has already published two excellent entomological papers in the *Bulletin*, the material from which these papers were largely prepared being sent him by bird-banders. His studies show the enormous mortality among Bluebirds caused by parasitism of the larvæ of the common fly *Protocalliphora splendida*, form *sialia*. It is desirable that this investigation be continued in order to learn the extent of this fly's depredations as affecting the Bluebird and other species, and also to determine the area of the fly's activities, whether local or covering the entire nesting-range of the species.

Not all our banders band Bluebirds, but many of them have an opportunity to collect their nests and to note the presence or absence of dead young therein at the time the nests are collected. Banders are accordingly asked to do this—to collect not only Bluebirds' nests, but nests of all other species of birds as well. Such nests should be collected within ten days after the young birds have flown, and care should be exercised to take the entire nest, including the foundation. Each nest should be placed in a separate strong paper-bag, the opening being carefully closed after enclosing therein (or sending in a letter) a full description of the nest, the name of the bird, when collected and by whom, the date the nest became empty if known, notes on the history of the former occupants (parents and young), etc. Larvæ (maggots) when collected should be packed in damp moss and sent immediately to Mr. Johnson with the appropriate accompanying notes, and the nest as well should be sent him as soon as secured. Parasitic flies of all kinds, as well as lice (*Mallophaga*), found on parent birds or young, should also be collected and sent him, after being enclosed in a small vial. Regarding flies, my experience is that if the birds are handled inside the house in front of and close to a window the flies will fly to the window-panes and very likely they will return to the birds a moment afterwards. When on the window-pane, they may be collected by placing over them an empty vial (or tumbler) and then sliding a card between the vial and the pane.

All material should be sent to Charles W. Johnson, Boston Society of Natural History, corner Boylston and Berkeley Streets, Boston, Massachusetts.—C. L. W.

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**Pulmonary Mycosis in the White-crowned Sparrow.**—White-crowned Sparrows have not been as numerous as usual at my station this spring. This is in marked contrast to conditions elsewhere in New England as reported in *Items of Interest* for May, issued by the Division of Ornithology of the Massachusetts Department of Agriculture, for they have been estimated to be almost as numerous as the White-throated Sparrow in many localities. At Wells River a smaller number have been banded than