

to swarm about us most attractively unperturbed, while, invisible to them, we gaze out from the dim interior, by the roaring fire.—F. B. WHITE, Concord, New Hampshire.

A Return-4 Rose-breasted Grosbeak.—On June 13, 1924, at my station in Peterboro, New Hampshire, I banded male Rose-breasted Grosbeak No. 117449. At the time of banding, this bird was in mature plumage, with primaries black, and hence was at least two years old. He was a return-1 May 24, 1925; a return-2 June 18, 1926; a return-3 May 15, 1927; and a return-4 on June 23, 1929. He was not taken in 1928. This record proves the bird to be now at least seven years old. It is regrettable that the bird could not have been taken first as a young-of-the-year, so that a study might have been made of its complete plumage changes. Jonathan Dwight refers to the extraordinary individual variation in the plumage of the male of this species. The variation in a number of individuals, if studied in the light of a knowledge of the bird's age, might be found to be based on a law of sequence. Banders who are fortunate enough to take this species in juvenal plumage, with a good succession of returns, have an unusual opportunity to note plumage changes in great detail—an opportunity not possessed by ornithologists studying collections.—HELEN G. WHITTLE, Peterboro, N. H., June 27, 1929.

Banding Notes from Dover, Massachusetts.—During the winter of 1923-4, I banded a number of birds at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Arthur B. Emmons 2d, in Dover, Mass. At that time I was living in a rather thickly settled neighborhood near Boston, where birds were not numerous, but as I had formerly lived in Dover I knew that Mrs. Emmons had been successful for a number of years in feeding and attracting birds, so I thought that her home would be a good place to establish a banding station. The house is situated on a knoll in the woods (largely white pines and oaks), but with open fields not far away, and the locality appears to be a favorable one for many species of birds. A few months after I started banding operations at Dover, Mrs. Emmons secured a permit and from that time on only her bands were used.

On a recent visit to Dover after an absence of some two or three years, I was much pleased to find that a few of my birds still came to the Emmons station and that many birds banded in subsequent years were still in more or less regular attendance. Birds of several species were numerous around the house and I had what was to me the novel experience of sitting at the dining table and watching a Ruffed Grouse feeding on the porch, only a few feet away. Mrs. Emmons said that there were at least four of these birds which came regularly to feed on the porch, where grain was scattered on the floor, and that last winter there were five, but that one was killed by flying against the plate-glass window of the dining-room! The winter before there were eight birds. It was a satisfaction to hear of this, in view of the present scarcity of Ruffed Grouse in many parts of New England.

I saw a Phoebe's nest which had a rather interesting history. The birds started to build on the front porch, but before the nest was finished they started another at the other corner of the porch. Then when this nest was only partly completed they carried the material from both nests around to the kitchen porch, where they finally set up housekeeping in the nest which I saw.

I found that Mrs. Emmons had records of 476 birds banded (including 50 banded by me), as follows: Hairy Woodpecker 13, Downy Wood-

pecker 48, Purple Finch 62, Goldfinch 123, Tree Sparrow 11, Chipping Sparrow 1, Junco 89, Song Sparrow 4, Fox Sparrow 2, Towhee 1, Black and White Warbler 1, Brown Creeper 6, White-breasted Nuthatch 16, Red-breasted Nuthatch 4, Chickadee 89, Golden-crowned Kinglet 1, and Bluebird 5. The relatively large number of Woodpeckers and Chickadees is probably accounted for by the wooded surroundings of the station, and the small number of Song Sparrows and Chipping Sparrows is doubtless because most of the banding was done during the winter months. The Towhee was a winter bird, which was at the station for a number of weeks and was banded February 3, 1924.

As Mrs. Emmons is interested only in the "gentle sport" of bird-banding (as Mrs. Whittle has called it) and not in the scientific aspects of the subject, she has made no study of plumage changes or other matters of the sort, nor has she made any special effort to retake birds already banded, so probably her records tell only a part of the story of what has been going on. Nevertheless there is a record of a Downy Woodpecker (No. 120705) which I banded on December 30, 1923, and which has been taken every year since then, the last time being April 28, 1929. There are also several records of Woodpeckers and Chickadees for four or five years. As there are many banded birds of these species at the station, I do not doubt that some systematic trapping might produce interesting results.

I noted that there were no Purple Finch returns, which seems surprising in view of experiences at other banding stations. There was, however, one recovery, a 1925 bird which was found dead in 1927 in another part of Dover. Mrs. Emmons said that the Purple Finches which were then (May, 1929) at the station (and presumably nesting) were not banded. Of the 89 Juncos there was only one return, a 1924 bird taken in 1929. Mrs. Emmons also said that practically all the Hairy Woodpeckers she had taken were unbanded, but I found that this was probably because the banded ones were trap-shy, rather than that they did not remain in the vicinity. They are, of course, wary birds, but they come more or less regularly to the suet at the station.—H. S. SHAW, Exeter, New Hampshire.

Bird-Banding Notes from Wells River.—The storm of April 12, 1929 deposited ten inches of snow in the Connecticut Valley and several inches more a few miles away from the Valley at slightly higher altitudes. The ground remained snow covered until the 15th and the snow did not wholly disappear until the 19th. Minimum temperatures during the period ranged from 29 degrees to 38 degrees above, while maximum temperatures varied between 38 and 47 degrees above. The food problem for birds was acute and the traps and feeding-stands were well patronized and the food disappeared with surprising rapidity. During the period of April 12-20, we placed bands on 98 individuals of 8 species divided as follows: Horned Lark (*Otocoris a. alpestris*), 1; Redpoll (*Acanthis l. linaria*), 1; Vesper Sparrow (*Poocetes g. gramineus*), 2; Tree Sparrow (*Spizella m. monticola*), 2; Slate-colored Junco (*Junco h. hyemalis*), 70; Song Sparrow (*Melospiza m. melodia*), 9; Fox Sparrow (*Passerella i. iliaca*), 11; Robin (*Planesticus m. migratorius*), 2.

Among these were two individuals having diseased feet. Slate-colored Junco No. B94733, an adult male, had an enlarged metatarsus on right foot. The second, third, and fourth toes were bent back to the tarsus and then curved forward again, almost describing a full circle. Fox Sparrow No. 394371 also had an enlarged metatarsus with a twist to outer side. The middle toe was without the nail and the last phalanx was swollen. The hind toe was stiff. Neither bird had much use of the defective member. The sparrow scratched with one foot and stood on