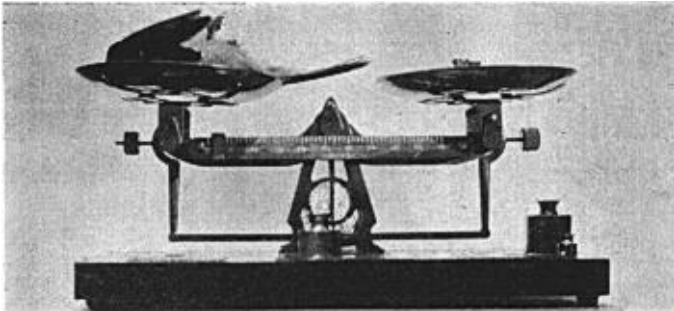


Sleep as a Reflex.—An interesting example of reflex action in bird behavior results from the placing of the bird's head under its wing in the position it naturally occupies in sleeping. If carefully done, by observing the breathing of the bird and not releasing it until the muscles seem relaxed, birds will remain quiet and apparently asleep for periods up to fifteen minutes or more. The longer periods being those of birds who tend to remain quiet in any position after capture such as Screech Owls and Blue Jays.



WEIGHING A SLEEPING ENGLISH SPARROW.

The illustration is of a House Sparrow as this species seems to be entirely free from the "playing dead" or cataleptic reaction. The actions of a bird experimented on in this manner on awakening would seem to indicate that there is no memory of its capture. Many birds which usually on being released, fly away calling, after being placed asleep, will awake very slowly, look around in every direction as if to locate themselves and then fly away slowly and silently. Edmund Selous, "Realities of Bird Life," 1927, p. 241 describes this reaction in the case of terns.

As shown in the photograph advantage may be taken of this for weighing.
—E. C. HOFFMAN, 1041 Forest Cliff Drive, Lakewood, Ohio.

Notes on the Juvenal Plumage of Male and Female Evening Grosbeaks.—This summer a few Evening Grosbeaks were feeding at my station off and on till July 14th, but were not seen again until July 28th, when a banded male and banded female accompanied by two young were seen. The two young were following the adult female, who was busy feeding them, although they were also picking around for themselves. I trapped the adult female and one of the young. The adult female carried band No. 269828, placed by me March 8, 1925, and this was the first time it was retrapped. The following day, July 29th, I trapped and banded the other young one. The next day, July 30th, I trapped both young ones, thereby having an excellent opportunity to compare them, one being a female, the other a male, both in juvenal plumage.

In my files I find the following references to juvenal Evening Grosbeaks, all seen at my house:

1921—Aug. 25, 1; Aug. 26, 2 very young birds; Aug. 29, 1.

1923—Aug. 19, 1; Sept. 3, 1; Sept. 5, 2; Sept. 8, 2.

1924—Aug. 13, 1; Sept. 8, 4; Sept. 9, 3; Sept. 10, 1; Sept. 11, 2; Sept. 13, 2.

1925—July 29, 3.

Of all these juvenal birds I was only able to trap one, one of the two seen on September 11, 1924, and I gave it No. 269820. In looking over these young birds I made notes that some looked like young males and others like young females.

Dr. Dwight, in his paper on the "Sequence of Plumages and Moults of the Passerine Birds of New York," page 170, states, "The sexes are similar in juvenal plumage." For this reason I thought the differences I had observed were possibly more imaginary than real, so my juvenal female banded in 1924 and the one banded July 28th I recorded simply as young. However, when I got the young male on July 29th, I saw at once that the juvenal plumages of the sexes were very different, as noted below:

Male

Head, back, and rump buffy-brown with a very decided yellow tinge, a little darker than the buffy-brown of the underparts.
 Neck, breast, and sides rich buffy-brown, all, except some of the feathers on sides, with a decided yellow tinge.
 Abdomen lighter, under tail-coverts white very faintly tinged with yellowish-buffy-brown.
 Chin and throat quite yellow, a few dark feathers on chin.
 Primaries solid black, except first five at tips with a very narrow indistinct edging of dull brownish-white.
 Inner greater coverts gray-white rather heavily edged with yellow.
 The characteristic large white wing-patch, edged yellow, of the adult male. The two innermost feathers with dark edging on inner webs.
 Tail solid black.
 Upper tail-coverts—the four longest feathers all black, the others with some yellow hair lines.

Female

Head, back, and rump mouse-color, more or less tinged with a rich buffy-brown.
 Neck, breast, and sides rich buffy-brown. Sides of neck tinged yellow.
 Abdomen and under tail-coverts white tinged buffy-brown, the tinge on under tail-coverts very faint.
 Throat white with faint tinge of buffy-brown. Bordered on each side by a rather heavy blackish line.
 Primaries black, edged white, with white spot across center, this white portion of feathers edged yellow.
 A large patch of quite bright yellow on the inner greater coverts.
 Tail black, all feathers, except middle two, tipped white. Upper tail-coverts black, all feathers with spot of buffy-brown at tips.

The nearest to what I call mouse-color is Ridgway's dark mouse gray (Plate LI), and the nearest to what I call buffy-brown lies possibly between his raw-sienna (Plate III) and his ochraceous tawny (Plate XV).—M. J. MAGEE, Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan.

A Seven-year-old Crested Flycatcher.—In the *Bulletin* for 1927, Vol. III, pp. 52-54, and in the *Bulletin* for 1928, Vol. IV, p. 106, Mabel Gillespie of Glenolden, Pennsylvania, has published six years of the known history of a male Crested Flycatcher, No. 248735. Under date of September 7, 1929, Mrs. Gillespie writes as follows: "On May 18, 1929, I saw a Crested Flycatcher sitting on the perching line facing the shelter. [See p. 106 above mentioned for a description of the shelter and the cover picture of it in the same number.] In that position he was back to me and exposed only the unbanded right leg * * *. After a moment he flew toward the shelter, fluttered in front of it for a moment, and then flew back to the line, facing me this time so that I could see his left leg on which there was a band!" This