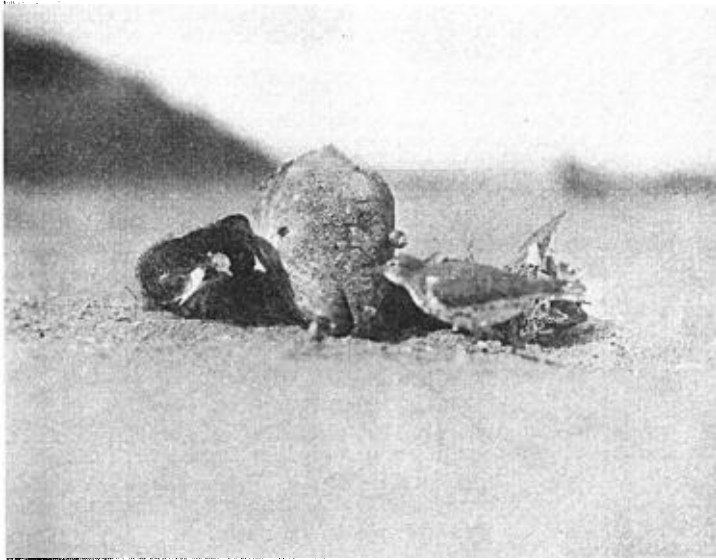


identification is deemed adequate by Mrs. Gillespie in view of the fact that she has never banded another bird of this species on the left tarsus, and in view of the history of the male Crested Flycatcher at her station during the previous six nesting seasons.

Probably we have more knowledge of this bird than of any wild Crested Flycatcher that ever lived. May his days be long in the land.—C. L. W.

**Fly-eating Spotted Sandpipers.**—I have several times seen a pair of adult Spotted Sandpipers, high up on the beach, near an old fishing shanty. One day, while resting in the shanty, I saw that the Sandpipers were taking advantage of the numerous fish-heads that were scattered about by eating the flies that were attracted by the remains. A Sandpiper would come walking up the beach, stopping now and then to investigate some morsel and teetering a little at every pause. Then, with few stops, it would stalk toward some fly-covered fish-head. When it had approached



SPOTTED SANDPIPER ABOUT TO SEIZE A FLY.

within a foot or so of one, it would crouch, head level with the body (see photograph), and very slowly move forward, until its bill was within an inch or so of an unsuspecting fly. Then, with lightning speed, the head would dart forward, and the next instant a fly would be impaled on the tip of its bill. Sometimes, while creeping up, the flies would leave before the bird was within striking distance, but none was seen to escape that quick little thrust, once the Sandpiper got in range.

I was also interested to note that when a cat came walking along the beach, the Sandpiper, instead of flying or running, crouched among the

stones, which matched the bird's brownish-gray back perfectly, and waited until it passed.—EVERETT N. ELDRIDGE, JR., Chatham, Massachusetts.

**Note by Editor.**—In Bulletin 146 of the United States National Museum, "Life Histories of North American Shore Birds," by A. C. Bent, Tyler writes of the Spotted Sandpiper's habit of catching insects as follows: p. 85 "In order to come within striking distance of an insect before it flies away, the Spotted Sandpiper resorts to a ruse by which its approaching head and beak are concealed or made inconspicuous. As the bird walks over windrows of seaweed and such places where flies abound, it stretches its body out with the bill pointing straight in front, the whole bird lengthened into a line with the long axis parallel to the ground. In this position the head, from the flies' point of view, is masked by the body as a background and the bird is enabled to come so near that it can snap up a fly, even after it has taken wing, by a straight forward movement of the head. In stalking a flying prey the Spotted Sandpiper creeps up to the fly, moving slowly with cat-like steps, the tail motionless. . . ."

It is interesting to note that these two accounts of the Spotted Sandpiper's behavior agree so closely. We are also glad to publish a photograph showing the attitude of the bird just prior to seizing a fly.—C. L. W.

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**A Chimney Swift Recovery.**—W. L. Skinner of Proctorsville, Vermont, reports the capture of Chimney Swift No. 27978, banded by E. O. Grant at Patten, Maine, June 14, 1926, one of fifty-two birds banded by him that year. Skinner reports that the Swift was one of a pair of birds nesting in a chimneyless stable at a sporting camp on the east branch of the Penobscot River, seven miles from Stacyville and about twelve miles from the place of banding. The recovery was made about the first week in July 1929, and the bird was again liberated after the number was read.—C. L. W.

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**An Important Purple Finch Recovery.**—An olivaceous Purple Finch, No. 37972, was banded by William P. Wharton at Groton, Massachusetts, May 6, 1929, and in less than two weeks (thirteen days to be accurate) it was recovered by Mrs. J. Franklin Anthony, a bird-bander, at Bar Harbor, Maine, May 19, 1929. Such rapid traveling as this, approximately two hundred miles in a straight line in so short a period, points to a bird definitely in migration to its nesting-area, rather than an erratic wandering so habitual with this species, and the time of year also supports this view.—C. L. W.

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**A Correction.**—On page 89 of the July, 1929, number of the *Bulletin*, Plate II, the date of the weather map is given as October 30, 1929. This should read 1928.