

year-old son of Mrs. M. Kuehne, living about three fourths of a mile south of our station. This record also shows little spring movement.

Starlings at our station seem very trap-shy, and while groups of twenty-five to fifty were often feeding within twenty-five feet of our house, no birds were observed with bands. These birds are very greedy, and the best bait is table scraps and suet. They feed close together, but not without fighting. As many as five have been caught under a four-foot drop-trap at once during periods when snow is on the ground.

In a letter from the Biological Survey dated March 25, 1931, it is stated that 18,421 Starlings have been banded, and while the new return file has not been completed, 352 returns have been recorded, consisting of 125 from localities other than where they were banded, and 227 trapped or otherwise captured at the banding locality.

In case of many of the Starlings trapped at this station, notes were made on the coloring of the mandibles, and a great variety of shadings were recorded. On this matter, W. C. Henderson, Acting Chief of the Biological Survey writes:

"Mr. E. R. Kalmbach, of this office, who has made quite an extensive study of this species, states that there is a distinct sexual difference in the coloring of the bill. The male bird has a deep, almost chrome yellow tip to its bill, whereas the base of the lower mandible is of a lead-blue color. The tip of the female's bill is of a paler yellow, and the base of the lower mandible is pale, almost white. This brightening of the bill takes place far in advance of the breeding-season. Mr. Kalmbach further states that he has seen individual birds that had brilliantly colored bills as early as the middle of November. Immediately after the breeding-season, the bill darkens, losing all of its yellow hue. He has no information concerning the factor of age in connection with this coloration, although he is inclined to believe that the more mature birds have the most brilliantly colored bills."

In *Farmers' Bulletin* 1571 of the Department of Agriculture, Mr. Kalmbach in writing of the bills of this species gives much the same description but adds that while the brightening of the bill may occur as early as the middle of November, normally it is not apparent until January or February. In checking over my own notes I find No. A249142, trapped February 6, 1931, as having upper mandible all black; lower, black, shading to grayish at base. No. A249146, trapped on February 16, 1931, the same as A249142; while A249147, caught with A249146, had a brilliant chrome-yellow bill. Could it be possible that Starlings having a very dark bill late in February are young birds of the previous summer? It is probable that age is a deciding factor in the coloration of the mandibles of these birds, as Mr. Kalmbach is inclined to believe. Unfortunately no notes were taken of the fledgling that was retrapped.—GEOFFREY GILL, Huntington, Long Island, New York.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak Returns—It is always an impressive experience to have birds return which have wintered hundreds and perhaps thousands of miles beyond our borders and have made migration journeys of two to three thousand miles during their seasonal absence. It is even more impressive if, as shown by recent records, at least 66.66 per cent of locally nesting adults are able to make these journeys in safety, presumably across the hazardous Caribbean Sea or the Gulf of Mexico.

During 1930 six nesting adult Rose-breasted Grosbeaks (*Hedymeles ludoviciana*)—three males and three females—and three young-of-the-year were banded at my station in Peterboro, New Hampshire. Of these, two adult males and two adult females and one young-of-the-year returned and nested in 1931.

In 1930 three pairs came to my station nearly every day during the nesting-season. This season (1931) I have also, as stated, three pairs of nesting Grosbeaks, five of them being banded birds of 1930. It was not possible to determine the actual pairs mated in 1930, but opportunity certainly existed for remating in 1931.

The first male to appear at my station in 1931 came on May 10th, a female appearing the following day. It is probable that the sexes migrated north together.—CHARLES L. WHITTLE, Peterboro, New Hampshire.

Trapping Birds with Nesting-Materials—The use of nesting-materials in traps was tried for the first time this season at the Clary banding station, with some success in the case of kingbirds, orioles, and Mockingbirds. The materials used were string, cotton, and hemp-rope ravelings.

Arkansas Kingbirds (*Tyrannus verticalis*) have nested for several years on the cross-arm of a transformer pole thirty feet west of our house. Practically all the material used in their nests the past two years has been supplied by Mr. Clary and myself. By watching the type of material being selected by the birds we have been able to supply all their needs, such as heavy string for anchoring the nest to the pole, and later cotton for lining and sides. When dried grasses were being hunted, we cut rope into convenient lengths and unravelled it. All of this material was placed in sight of the nest and under favorite perches used by the birds. A characteristic habit of these birds is to alight on a wire or post above the desired object, study it for a few minutes, and then sweep down taking it on the wing.

When one kingbird's nest was well along toward completion and the birds were accustomed to look to us for material, we began placing it nearer the house where we intended placing the trap. Let me say here that only the female, as we later learned, worked on this nest. As soon as she began coming fearlessly to the wires of the pergola two feet from the door, we wired the gathering-cage to a post, placed a tuft of cotton inside, and awaited developments. At first she tried hovering over and under the trap in an attempt to pull the cotton through the narrow mesh of the wire. We then nailed a piece of lath for a perch in front of the drop door and in a short time had her banded. The male was not seen until a week after the nest was completed. Three babies were banded from this nest, and the second day after they were out of the nest the mother was busy repairing it for a second brood.

With only one of the pair banded it has been easy to follow the activities of this royal family. Almost all feeding and care of the young has fallen upon the busy mother, the father's sole contribution to family life being that of an admirable watch dog and defender. We saw only two attempts by him to feed the young, but these were met with such a drubbing on the part of the female that he retired, nor did he offer to help in the repair of the nest for the second brood, as we had hoped. Additional material was supplied and taken for the second nest, but as the banded partner alone was concerned, we made no attempt to trap her again.

Noting female Bullock Orioles (*Icterus bullocki*) unraveling a tarpaulin covering on an outdoor bed, we placed a trap over the unravelled part and added a generous supply of cotton and string fastened so as to wave in the breeze. In a few minutes a Mockingbird was trapped. Every approach of the Oriole thereafter resulted in a declaration of war by the Mockers; so we placed the trap in a different location and the same afternoon had trapped and banded a female Oriole.

Nesting-material as well as wheat was placed in the trap that caught our first Crissal and Le Conte Thrashers this spring. What part the