

Notes on the Sex Ratio and the Age of the Eastern Evening Grosbeak (*Hesperiphona vespertina vespertina*). I began banding Eastern Evening Grosbeaks at my home in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, in 1923, and up to July 31, 1939, I have banded 3,914, a number sufficient, it is believed, to furnish an accurate sex ratio. Of these, 2,095 were males and 1,819 were females, a sex ratio of 53.526 per cent of males and 46.474 per cent of females.

During this period of 17 years, the age records, based on recoveries and returns, are tabulated below. They comprise data based on 105 males and 80 females.

Age	Male	Female	Total
1 year	6	10	16
2 years	42	33	75
3 years	19	12	31
4 years	14	10	24
5 years	8	8	16
6 years	12	3	15
7 years	1	1	2
8 years	2	1	3
9 years	1	2	3
	105	80	185

In estimating age, I count August 1 as the average date for a young Grosbeak to hatch. I reckon from six months previous to August 1 to six months past that date for the year. For instance: an adult banded March 1, 1935, returning February 1, 1939, is called five years of age; an adult banded March 1, 1935, returning January 31, 1939, is called four years of age. The great majority of the Evening Grosbeaks are trapped in late winter and spring, which explains the small number of "one year" returns, as a bird returning at that time the next year is nearer two years of age than one year.—M. J. MAGEE, Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan.

A Slate-colored Junco at Least Eight Years Old. On September 25, 1931 I banded a Slate-colored Junco B-127485 at Mohonk Lake, N. Y. Its age and sex were not determined. This bird returned to Mohonk Lake as follows: March 21, 1932, April 23, 1934, April 7, 1938, April 8, 1939.

When captured in 1938 it was noted that the original band was badly worn from the inside and was uniformly thin. I placed a new band L-9334 on the opposite leg—the left, leaving the old band on the right.

By the time of the 1939 return the original band had been lost, presumably having worn to the point where it dropped off. When first taken from the trap I did not notice the band on the left leg (as I always band on the right leg) and a new one, L-9389, had been placed on the right leg before the discovery was made. Rather than risk removal I left the second one on. This is the first instance in my experience where we have a band actually wearing out in between seven and eight years. This wear may have been somewhat hastened by the fact that the old 1A size fitted quite loosely on a Junco's leg.

For the last ten years I have kept a standard set of plumage notes and sketched diagrams of the white on the outer tail feathers of Juncos whenever time permitted. By fortunate coincidence I have these notes and diagrams for each return of the above bird as well as the original banding. In September 1937, the head, back and upper breast were uniformly gray with a minimum of brown over-wash. The two outer feathers on each side of the tail were entirely white. The third feather was gray with white edgings and a long narrow white spot toward the outer end. I noted at the time "primaries, body and head feathers coming in new." My study of Junco plumage leads me to believe this bird was two years old when banded, which would make it ten years old now.

At subsequent recaptures the tail diagrams showed almost no variation from the original banding and what is most noteworthy, no tendency to an increased area of white. On March 21, 1932 I noted "no molting around head; wings, tail and body feathers worn." The detailed notes taken at the returns merely substantiate what I have come to expect for a fully adult Junco.

If the bird was an adult when banded in September I believe it would have been a summer resident at Mohonk. This is further borne out by the fact that in 1938 I saw a Junco at a window feeding shelf as late as May 22, carrying a size 1A band on its right leg and a size 1 band on its left. This year this Junco has repeated May 10th. Both of the May dates are beyond the usual migration time of Juncos.—DANIEL SMILEY, JR., Mohonk Lake, N. Y.

A House Trap as Part of a Song Sparrow's Territory. On April 29, 1937, I banded a Song Sparrow, 37-100025, which I have since come to regard as a male. At that time my trapping station was rather unsatisfactory, and I failed to record the bird again for almost two years.

In early 1939 I designed and built an elaborate house trap and eliminated all my former traps. My catch quadrupled itself within a very short period. On March 10 I retrapped 37-100025, while during the early spring I banded 15 new Song Sparrows.

It soon became apparent that 37-100025 was forming an alliance with 37-100224, banded on March 15. These two entered the trap together several times a day.

On March 22 a late snowstorm covered Swarthmore, and birds of several species literally swarmed into the house trap. In the confusion of panic-stricken Juncos Cardinals, Titmice, and Song Sparrows, 37-100224 broke one of its legs (tarsometatarsus) close to the foot. It repeated next day, but since then it has not visited my station, presumably having died.

37-100025 continued to frequent the house trap, staying in it almost continually. Within two months of its "return" on March 10, I released it more than a hundred times.

On April 22 I banded a Song Sparrow, 37-100235. Shortly after this it began to enter the trap regularly with 37-100025. At the same time my catch of new sparrows, as well as repeats from other banded ones, began to fall off. 37-100025 was by this time so thoroughly at home in the trap that he frequently sang from a perch in it.

It was obvious to me that he considered the trap as a part of his territory and was excluding Song Sparrows other than his mate from it.

By the middle of May he had learned the ins and outs of the various funnels, so that he could enter and leave the trap at will. Henceforth he disregarded the two gathering cages so that I ceased recording his visits unless I rushed up and surprised him into entering one.

His mate, however, was not as astute, and I continued to catch her on many occasions.

On March 4 I had banded a Song Sparrow, 37-100215. This bird repeated on March 13, 15 and 22, and again on April 21, but after the above pair had established the trap as part of their territory, 37-100215 ceased visiting it.

On May 22 I was startled to find three Song Sparrows in one of the gathering cages. One bird was dead, 37-100215. The other two were alive, 37-100025 and 37-100235.

The dead sparrow had obviously been killed. The skin of the entire fore-part of the dorsum of the head was missing. Post-mortem examination disclosed numerous punctate subdural hemorrhages situated bilaterally in the frontal, otic and occipital regions. The skull was not visibly indented. The jugular veins and cardiac atria were engorged. Several mallophaga in the plumage presented the only other abnormality. (One mallophaga was removed by me on April 21.) General nutrition and development were good. The testes were hypertrophied to full breeding capacity. The gizzard contained small grains of sand and a moderate quantity of finely triturated farinaceous material. There were no parasites in the intestine. The lungs, liver, spleen, pancreas and kidneys were grossly normal.

There was nothing, in short, to indicate that the specimen was other than a normal male trespassing on foreign ground.