

## GENERAL NOTES

**Another Slate-colored Junco at Least Eight Years Old.** On January 21, 1932, Arthur Milliken banded a male Slate-colored Junco (*Junco hyemalis hyemalis*) F76206 at Brooks School, North Andover, Massachusetts. The age of the bird when taken is not indicated in his records. This Junco repeated on January 23, February 4, and March 29, 1932. It returned on December 5, 1935, and repeated on March 5, 1936. No banding was done at North Andover in 1937 and 1938.

I had this bird as a return on October 29, 1939, at Brooks School. It repeated on December 8, 1939, and on February 12, 19, and 21, 1940. I have not seen the bird since it last repeated. The date of banding together with the date of its last recapture indicates that this Junco was in at least its ninth year. Smiley, (*Bird-Banding*, 1939, 10: 161) has reported another Slate-colored Junco which was at least eight years of age, a bird which he believes may have been a summer resident at Mohonk Lake, New York. Juncos are winter residents only in North Andover.—Oscar M. Root, Brooks School, North Andover, Massachusetts.

**A Life History is Completed.** On page 174 in the October, 1940, issue of *Bird-Banding* was reported the simultaneous capture of three return White-throated Sparrows (*Zonotrichia albicollis*) in a Government sparrow trap. This interesting event occurred on July 6, 1939 in Millbridge, Maine, the three birds having been banded in the same locality the previous summer. Of these three birds, only 138-100527, a strikingly marked male, returned for the summer of 1940. He was recaptured as a Return-2 on July 3, 1940 in the same trap set in the same location. He made frequent visits to the trap during the summer and was retaken nineteen times. It is needless to say that when I returned to Millbridge for the summer just past, the possibility of the return of this bird was a fond anticipation. But when late June had passed and July was waning without his having reappeared I felt certain that his life's history would have to be closed with a question mark.

Then came July 30, 1941. It was just before six o'clock in the morning when I approached the Government sparrow trap set in the familiar little clearing among the spruces and firs which hid it quite completely. The sound of a metallic rattling told me that something was in the trap, and stepping into the clearing, I discovered a red squirrel in the rear compartment. It was not until I stooped to open the door which would release the trespassing squirrel that I noticed the almost shapeless little bunch of brown feathers crumpled into one corner of the same compartment. Even as my attention was arrested the bird's body rolled ever so slightly onto one side and one leg extended itself slowly, trembled, and became still. But on the leg, extended in that dying movement as if for my inspection, was an aluminum band.

When the squirrel had been driven from the trap I retrieved the body. It was the mutilated form of a White-throated Sparrow. Many of its body-feathers were loosened and its tail-feathers were entirely gone. The top of its head was partly scalped and bleeding, but the yellow line before each eye was brilliant, nor ever was there a purer white than the white beneath its throat.

To read the number on the band was superfluous. I had handled that bird too many times to have failed to recognize him. The band merely sufficed to prove that my recognition was correct. No. 138-100527 had returned to me again. How much easier to have closed his life's history with a question mark than to have to record this sad ending.—G. Hapgood Parks, 99 Warrenton Ave., Hartford, Connecticut.