

38-64854. Purple Finch. Adult male. Banded April 14, 1938. Return (1) March 27, 1942. At least close to 6 years old.

37-99389. Slate-colored Junco. Adult male. Banded October 24, 1937. Return (1) November 24, 1938; (2) November 7, 1939; (3) October 26, 1941. At least 5 years old.

39-128738. White-throated Sparrow. Adult. Banded December 24, 1938. Return (1) April 26, 1940; (2) November 11, 1940; (3) March 7, 1942. At least 5 years old.—HORACE GROSKIN, 210 Glenn Road, Ardmore, Pa.

Roadside Returns.—On both June 5 and 6, 1942, banded birds were found killed on roads about a third of a mile from the banding station. On the first date, Song Sparrow 41-94024 was found within a few hundred yards of the place where it had been banded on August 1, 1941, when it was a juvenile. It had not been trapped since it repeated on September 21, 1941.

Early in the morning of June 6, 1942, Robin 38-248751 was found. This bird was banded on July 4, 1939 as a juvenile, the notes indicating that it was host to bird flies (*Hippoboscidae*) at that time. It had not been taken since it was banded nearly three years previously.

The automobile was indicated in both cases as being responsible for the death of these birds. One was found crushed in the wheel tracks; the other mangled at the edge of the roadside. In one instance this was a narrow road, and in the other a fairly wide, paved highway.

The loss of bird life through this hazard seems to reach high levels during the nesting season, much of it due, no doubt, to the preoccupation of the birds with territory-holding, courting and nesting. Still other factors may have been at work in the instances referred to above. Preceding the finding of these birds, skies had been overcast with considerable misting. Vegetation was dripping wet. Under such conditions, it would seem entirely possible that birds' plumages would become dampened to a degree that would lessen their efficiency on the wing, especially if they persisted in attempts to garner food from ground levels. These very factors may be partly responsible for birds resorting to the hazardous habit of gleaning insect food from roadsides.—EDWIN A. MASON, Wharton Bird Banding Station, Groton, Massachusetts.

Longevity Records of Finches Banded at Lexington, Mass.—The following returns at my bird-banding station, Woodland Bird Sanctuary, may prove of interest.

ROSE-BREADED GROSBEAK (*Hedymeles ludovicianus*)

♂ banded as 2 year old June 20, 1938; Returned June 1, 1939; May 8, 1940; May 13, 1941; May 3, 1942.

♂ banded, May 29, 1940. No record 1941; returned May 5, 1942.

♂ banded, May 17, 1939. No record 1940; returned July 31, 1941; May 5, 1942.

♂ banded June 26, 1937. Returned June 10, 1938; June 10, 1939; May 17, 1940; June 6, 1941; May 5, 1942.

♂ banded June 27, 1939 (probably 2 year old). Returned May 24, 1940; May 13, 1941; May 5, 1942.

♀ banded as juv. July 7, 1934. Returned May 20, 1935; May 13, 1936; May 14, 1937; June 13, 1938; May 23, 1939; May 29, 1940; June 5, 1941; June 22, 1942.

♀ banded May 26, 1934. Returned May 29, 1935; June 21, 1936; May 17, 1937; June 30, 1938; July 2, 1939.

♀ banded July 25, 1935. Returned June 17, 1936; June 11, 1937; June 22, 1938; May 18, 1939; May 9, 1940.

INDIGO BUNTING (*Passerina cyanea*)

♀ banded May 21, 1939. Returned May 15, 1940; no record 1941; May 5, 1942.

CHEWINK (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus erythrophthalmus*)

♀ banded as adult August 23, 1936. Returned July 12, 1939; July 11, 1940; May 3, 1942.

♀ banded as immature July 27, 1938. Returned June 11, 1940; May 4, 1942.

—ADA CLAPHAM GOVAN, Woodland Bird Sanctuary, Lexington, Mass.

Trapping Spotted Sandpipers and Baltimore Orioles with Unusual Bait.—At my banding station, established in 1921 at Lily Pond, Cohasset, I have trapped and banded in one year as many as 27 species, one of which is the Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularia*). I had on my lawn, some distance from the house, a large, pull-string trap for taking robins. In this trap I placed a quantity of "sun-kissed" raisins, which was successful bait for them. After most of the birds had been trapped and banded, I still continued the raisins, which in the warm weather, and after rains, became decayed; and then came many fruit flies that like decaying fruit. The Spotted Sandpipers nest around the pond, and have a habit of coming on the lawn for insects in the grass, and, as they neared the trap, they spied the flies and went directly in after them. In that way, the birds were taken;—inadvertently by the raisins used as bait for the robins.

For years the Baltimore Orioles (*Icterus galbula*) have nested in my elms. One of three nests was located on the hanging branches of an elm, about eighteen feet from the ground, directly over the traps. In experimenting with various kinds of bait for insectivorous birds, I discovered that bread crumbs in the trap, with larger pieces on top would attract them. In placing this bait in and on the trap under the orioles' nest, I was successful in having the female oriole enter, and instead of taking the bird immediately, I thought I would see if she would be good bait for her mate. It was not long before the male joined the female in the trap.—LAURENCE B. FLETCHER, Lily Pond, Cohasset, Mass.

Shipping Specimens for Diagnosis.—It is very difficult to make general recommendations for the preservation and shipping of specimens for diagnosis because this depends on distance, transportation facilities, season and the nature of the disease in the specimen.

Fortunately the area from which our specimens come is small so that packages usually arrive the day after mailing and the specimens are fairly well preserved. Nevertheless, we do receive decomposed specimens but this is often due to delays in transit over the week end. In other cases the specimen was dead and probably quite decomposed when it was found. Decomposition due to delays in shipments on week ends and holidays may be partly avoided by holding the specimen under refrigeration over the week end or holiday. Obviously, nothing can be done to restore a specimen already decomposed at the time of finding.

The use of dry ice to preserve specimens is rather expensive and should not be used whenever the diagnosis must depend upon a microscopic examination of a blood smear. Frozen blood becomes hemolyzed so that malarial infections, for example, cannot be diagnosed.

Packing the specimen in powdered borax has been suggested, and in our limited experience has seemed to give satisfactory results regardless of the disease present.

Some diseases can be diagnosed however decomposed the specimen. The diagnosis of tuberculosis, for example is, made by a microscopic examination of a stained slide made from the lesion. The presence of other bacteria are of no consequence because the tubercle bacillus can be easily identified by its staining properties. Parasites are usually well preserved even in specimens showing advanced decomposition.

The diagnosis of a virus disease in a decomposed specimen is not impossible for the reason that most viruses have to be filtered in any event. On the other hand, pox scabs may be suspended and inoculated without filtration. Decomposition may, however, obliterate changes which would otherwise suggest a virus disease, and hence, prompt a search for it.