

He repeated on February 4, 8, 9, March 14, 22, 24, April 3, 4, and 10. On March 24 all the feathers and even the skin was gone from the top of his head, probably due to the attack of some animal, as the trap had been overturned. He continued to repeat, however, until April 10. The head healed and showed no signs of infection, although no feathers developed. On April 10 a small hole was noted in the edge of the skull over the right eye. The new band remained on his leg and showed no indications of rough usage.

Of the 124 cardinals banded at the home station between January 1, 1945 and June 1, 1947, 48 have repeated or returned. This is 38 per cent of the birds banded. In other words 8.33 per cent of the birds with known histories removed their bands. At this rate if all the birds banded could have been examined, we should expect to find ten birds without their bands.

The loss of bands raises the question, how does a cardinal remove its band? The no. 2 size is rather loose on the birds, making it possible for the bird to insert its beak between the band and the leg. A small amount of spreading of the band makes it possible for it to slip down over the foot. In one of my cases (no. 3) the appearance of the foot indicated that this had occurred with some injury to the scales covering the foot. More frequently the cardinal compresses the band, causing it to overlap. I have observed several such cases but never was the band closed enough to injure the leg. The cardinal has a very powerful beak and can upon occasion either open or close a band.

Finally, can anything be done to prevent the removal of bands? It is important that the bands be closed tightly and accurately to prevent both overlapping and spreading. I do not believe that it would be advantageous to change to the next smaller size, no. 1A, since the cardinals would be able to compress these more readily. However, it might be an advantage to cut down the size of the no. 2 band a little in order to reduce the danger of its slipping over the foot and to make it more difficult for the cardinal to insert its beak within the band.—Harvey B. Lovell, Biology Department, University of Louisville, Louisville, Kentucky.

**A Method of Capturing English Sparrows.**—English Sparrows, *Passer domesticus* (Linnaeus) are useful animals for laboratory experimentation, but at least in cities they are difficult to trap. In order to obtain a large number of sparrows for experimental work on photoperiodism a method of capturing them at night at their roosts in a net was worked out. This method, because of its simplicity and effectiveness, may prove useful to persons desiring to use this species in laboratory investigation.

The mouth of the net was held open by a piece of 3/16" galvanized steel wire which was bent into a rectangle measuring three feet by two feet and attached to a small triangular piece of plywood for rigidity. The tail of the net was six feet deep and was made of cheesecloth dyed black to reduce its visibility at night. No drawstring was needed to close the net because the tail was deep enough to prevent the ready escape of a captured bird.

The net was fastened to a sectional pole of the type used in pruning trees. This allowed the length of the handle to be varied at will. In practice a handle with a length of 28 feet (seven four-foot sections) was the longest that could be conveniently maneuvered.

In the vicinity of Boston, where the experiments referred to above were carried out, English Sparrows commonly spend the night in the ivy on the sides of stone and brick buildings. When the ivy is in leaf the birds roost even in areas where the cover is quite thin, but after the leaves have fallen they roost where the bare vines form a dense protective mat.

These roosting sites were readily located at dusk when the birds were returning

for the night because of the noisy contesting for perches which the birds exhibit before settling down.

After dark the roosts were revisited and spots where sparrows had been seen going to roost, or spots which looked as if they might harbor sparrows, were located by flashlight. The flashlight was then turned off. The sectional handle was adjusted to the appropriate length and the net hoisted quietly and pressed gently against the side of the building and then jiggled slightly. Whereupon the bird or birds within the area covered by the mouth of the net would awaken, fly out and flutter down into the tail of the net. The net was then lowered to the ground, and the birds transferred to a holding cage. In this way approximately 300 English Sparrows, and incidentally a number of starlings and pigeons, were captured.—George A. Bartholomew, Jr., University of California at Los Angeles, California.

**Use of Wood Duck Nesting Boxes by Screech Owls.**—The continued use of desirable territory by the Screech Owl, *Otus asio* (Linnaeus), is indicated by the following banding and return records. On May 8, 1946, three Screech Owl adults were found and banded when a routine examination of the Wood Duck nesting boxes at Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary, Northampton, Massachusetts was made by personnel of the Massachusetts Conservation Department, under the immediate direction of Robert H. Johnson. No. 42-515191 was an adult female in the gray phase, found hovering six nestlings. No. 42-515192 was an adult female in the red phase, found to be hovering five nestlings. No. 42-515193 was an adult male found in a box by himself, and in the gray plumage phase. The nestlings present were too small to band, and, unfortunately, press of other projects resulted in the lost opportunity to band them when they reached the proper size.

The pre-nesting examination of the Wood Duck nest boxes in the spring of 1947 was made on March 26. On that date, red phase female 42-515192 was taken as a return with 42-515193, grey phase male. Both were in nest box no. 20 at this time.

A subsequent examination made on May 12, 1947, gave another record for the female with band 42-515192. At this time she was hovering five small young in box no. 16. No other Screech Owls were found during this examination.

Apparently the large nest boxes with four inch entrance holes installed for Wood Ducks, made very acceptable nesting and roosting sites for Screech Owls. This factor, coupled with the nearby presence of several grassy areas and a rather extensive area of land lying in fallow, both of which were heavily populated with meadow mice, (*Microtus pennsylvanicus*), provided ideal territory for these small owls.

The more obvious remains of birds that had entered into the diet of the Screech Owls were found, the following species being represented: Flicker, *Colaptes auratus luteus* Bangs, Brown Thrasher, *Toxostoma rufum* (Linnaeus), Eastern Robin, *Turdus m. migratorius* (Linnaeus) and Eastern Song Sparrow, *Melospiza m. melodia* (Wilson). The effect of the owl's depredations on the song bird population was not superficially noticeable. Edwin A. Mason, Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary, Northampton, Massachusetts.

**Maryland Piping Plover Recovered in the Bahamas.**—Word has just been received that Piping Plover *Charadrius melodus melodus* Ord, No. 46-120304, which we banded as a juvenal on July 12, 1947, at Ocean City, Maryland, was recovered on October 22, 1947, at Sword Fish Creek on the Island of Grand Bahama. Although more than 1600 Piping Plovers have been banded, this is the first recovery from south of South Carolina, and the first between the months of August and April. Not only are there relatively few records for this species in the Bahamas, but until the present time it has not been known whether the