

### GENERAL NOTES

**More on Temporary Loss of Flight.**—The note in "Bird-Banding" for April, 1948, entitled "Temporary Loss of Flight" recalls a good many similar cases in my experience. While I am not in a position to give details at this time, I can say with some assurance that the story on all these birds was practically the same. With the earlier cases there was nothing to indicate anything wrong until the birds were released after banding, when they fell to the ground and fluttered off, unable to rise. In some cases I was able to catch the bird, and put it in a cage, where it was held for a few days, and then given another chance. After experimenting with this treatment, it was found that most individuals became able to fly again in about three weeks. It is remarkable, judging from my experience, that Mr. Blake's robin 47-309853 was able to fly on the evening of the same day on which it had appeared to be flightless. When the flightless birds escaped, the chances were that most would be recaptured later, and in these cases recovery of flight seemed to take about the same time, possibly a little less on the average. After experience with a few of these cases, I noticed that they usually followed a severe struggle in the hand, and that I usually sensed a slight snap as the wings were thrown back. After further experience, I often could tell before releasing a bird that it would not be able to fly. Finally I called the matter to the attention of a well-qualified ornithologist (I cannot now remember who), and was told that the trouble might be caused by the straining or displacement of a ligament in one wing. (It should be added that affected birds almost always turned around or rolled over in their efforts to fly.) As nothing was broken, time would restore the injured part to normal. Since loss of flight seems usually to be due to injury to a wing, I am now very careful to seize a trapped bird and close my hand on it as quickly as possible, watching my chance between struggles. It is, of course, important to hold the wings against the body firmly during the banding process.—Wm. P. Wharton, Groton, Mass.

**Two Recoveries and Two Returns.**—A Blue Jay, *Cyanocitta cristata bromia* Oberholser, trapped and banded no. 46-307205 by me at Cotuit, Massachusetts September 13, 1946 was reported by the Fish and Wildlife Service as having been found dead by Mrs. Charles Neff at Mt. Wolf, Pennsylvania November 20, 1946. Mrs. Neff, reporting the recovery, stated that the bird had a broken wing and leg when found. Mt. Wolf is six miles north of York and the bird was found a mile south of Mt. Wolf. The bird was immature when banded—in juvenal plumage, or at least mostly so.

A Bronzed Grackle, *Quiscalus quiscula aeneus* Ridgway, trapped and banded no. 40-302851 by me at Cotuit August 6, 1940 was reported by the Fish and Wildlife Service to have been found at Chatham, Massachusetts April 19, 1947 by Bobby Clem. On corresponding with Mr. Clem I learned the bird had been found dead with a wound on the neck. He was able to make a mounted specimen of it and estimated it had been dead about 18 hours. He also stated that it was a Bronzed Grackle with no admixture of Purple blood and it appeared to be a male. This bird at the time of banding was immature (in juvenal plumage, or at least mostly so.) Therefore the bird was nearly seven years old, which is no doubt longer than the usual life span of the species. Chatham is approximately 25 miles east of Cotuit. Until recently all grackles I have banded have been recorded as the Bronzed, the amount of Purple Grackle admixture, if any, being unknown.

Another grackle trapped and banded no. 41-356338 by me at Cotuit July 20, 1946 was recaptured at the same place as a return July 5, 1947. The bird was an adult male at the time of banding.

White-throated Sparrow A-150515, *Zonotrichia albicollis* (Gmelin), *Bird-Banding* 18 (1) 1947 p. 32, reported as a return (banded December 16, 1945 at