

39-645743, banded at Waltham, Mass., June 20, 1939 by E. A. Bergstrom, was found dead at Newton Upper Falls, Mass., on September 5, 1950.

39-645858, banded at Waltham, Mass., June 17, 1940 by E. A. Bergstrom, was found dead at Fort Erie, Ontario, on August 31, 1950.

The recovery of a Black-crowned Night Heron banded near the Atlantic coast in the Great Lakes drainage was unusual, as the migration paths are along the coast, but there are at least six other recoveries of birds banded in Massachusetts or New Hampshire and taken in the eastern Great Lakes area. It was noticeable that recoveries of these herons banded in New England were very scant along the shores of the Gulf of Mexico, except for Florida. Recoveries from south of the United States tended to be more-or-less due south of the region where the birds were banded. For example, the 11 Mexican recoveries were mostly from birds banded in the Middle West; the 23 Cuban recoveries were mostly from birds banded in New England. The disparity in number of recoveries from these two areas seems to arise out of the greater number of birds banded in New England, of this species. Other recoveries south of the United States can be summarized as follows: British Honduras, 3; Dominica, 1; Grand Cayman, 1; Guatemala, 2; Haiti, 2; Jamaica, 2.

The recovery of the two Waltham birds affords a little evidence as to the durability of the colored celluloid bands which they once carried (two on the 1940 bird, one on the 1939 bird). The evidence is unfortunately negative: the 1940 bird definitely had no color band when found, and it is almost certain that the 1939 bird had none. The consensus of opinion seems to be that it would be most unusual for a celluloid band to last ten years, particularly in salt water habitats.

My thanks are due to those who took part in the original banding at Waltham (notably Mr. C. S. Robbins) and to Messrs. J. J. Hickey, Seth H. Low, Jr., R. A. Paynter, Jr., and H. H. Poor, for their comments and help.—E. Alexander Bergstrom.

**Trapping Rose-breasted Grosbeaks.**—This species (*Hedymeles ludovicianus* L.) is reputed difficult to take. Checking my trappings I find 31 per cent of trappings in Potter traps on platforms about 3½ feet above ground, 62 percent in a small Chardonneret hung about 5½ feet above ground from the lower limb of a tree. Only seven percent of the trappings were at ground level. My bait is sunflower seeds. The species decoys readily.—Charles H. Blake, Mass. Institute of Technology, Cambridge 39, Mass.

**The nesting season of a pair of banded Song Sparrows.**—Nests of the Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*) may be found in southern Michigan from the third week of April well into August. By color-banding both members of a pair at Ann Arbor, Michigan, I was able to follow them through one breeding season. All young were banded while still in the nest. Consequently, they may have left the nest earlier than if they had not been disturbed.

The female was discovered adding lining to her nest on April 30, 1949. The nest was not checked until 7:00 p.m. the following day, but at that time it held one Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) egg. The contents of the nest on subsequent days was: May 2, 8:00 a.m., two Cowbird eggs; May 3, 6:45 a.m., one host and three Cowbird eggs; May 4, 7:30 a.m., two host and four Cowbird eggs; May 5, 7:45 a.m., three host and four Cowbird eggs; May 17, 7:45 a.m., three host and four Cowbird eggs. One Cowbird (down still wet) had hatched by 7:55 a.m. May 18, and eleven hours later the nest held three Cowbird nestlings. The other eggs did not hatch. The three Cowbirds fledged May 27.

On June 18, I found the second nest containing one Cowbird and four host eggs. Four of the eggs (including the Cowbird) hatched June 20 or 21, but the nest was destroyed June 23 when the weeds containing the nest were cut.

The third nest, with three host and two Cowbird eggs, was found July 2. On July 5, I found a drained Song Sparrow egg on the ground ten yards from the nest; the female was incubating three host and three Cowbird eggs. One of the Song Sparrow eggs disappeared from the nest before July 8. At 1:00 p.m. July 14, the nest held one Cowbird egg (which did not hatch), one Cowbird emerging from its egg, and one Cowbird and two Song Sparrow nestlings which had just hatched.

One Cowbird disappeared between July 20 and 22, but the other Cowbird and the two Song Sparrows fledged July 23. On August 4 the adult Song Sparrows were still feeding the two fledgling sparrows and the Cowbird and on August 11, the male sparrow was attending the Cowbird.

The first nest was placed on the ground; the second, 11 inches, and the third, 24 inches above ground in thistle (*Cirsium*).

The following table summarizes the success of the three nests.

Date nest found	Song Sparrow			Cowbird		
	Eggs laid	Eggs hatched	Young fledged	Eggs laid	Eggs hatched	Young fledged
1. April 30, 1949	3	0	0	4	3	3
2. June 18	4	3	0	1	1	0
3. July 2	4	2	2	3	2	1
Totals	11	5	2	8	6	4

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**Molt of Remiges and Rectrices of Immature Song Sparrows.**— Song Sparrows with molting remiges and rectrices handled in late summer and fall are often erroneously recorded as adult birds due to the common belief that these feathers are not molted by immature birds. The texture of the plumage is a better criterion upon which to base their age, though as the season progresses this too may become more difficult, especially in the late fall when all transients have acquired about the same feather quality and the general appearance of adults.

Among 85 immature Song Sparrows banded in 1935 in Pomfret, Connecticut, 40 were recaptured and 9 of these repeats were molting both remiges and rectrices and the changes were recorded as follows, measurements in millimeters:

C189943 Im. July 17, wing 63, tail 64.50. Aug. 18, primaries and secondaries new, outer primary 15, tail 54.

C189948 Im. July 17, wing 63.50, tail 61. Aug. 18, 1st (outer) and 2nd primaries old, 3rd, 4th and 5th in sheaths 27 to 41, tail 41.

C189981 Im. July 28, wing 68.25, tail 68.50. Aug. 18, wing and tail coverts new, tail 29. Sept. 1, primaries 9, 8, 7, 6, 5 and tertials in sheaths, tail 46.

C189988 Im. July 28, wing 65.50, tail 63. Aug. 27, primaries—1st 41.50 in sheath, 2nd and 3rd 50 (old), 4th and 5th in sheaths 34, tertials in sheaths, tail 27. Sept. 7, primaries—1st 43, 2nd 12, 3rd 27, 4th 44, 5th, 6th and 7th in sheaths, tail 58.

C189987 Im. July 28, wing 69, tail 64.50. Oct. 5, primaries—1st 37, 2nd 43, 3rd 47.50 in sheaths, 4th to 9th 51 to 48 (old) ?, secondaries, 47 to 39 in sheaths, tertials 38, 34, 25 in sheaths, tail 54 to 69, seven in sheaths.

C189983 Im. July 28, wing 67.50, tail 67.50. Aug. 27, wing, except 1st (outer) primary, new, second primary in sheath, tail 33 in sheaths.

C190000 Im. July 29, wing 62, tail 65. Aug. 18, 2nd and 3rd primaries in sheaths, tail 45.50.

34/114005 Im. Oct. 6, wing 67, tail 74. Outer primaries and secondaries and tail in sheaths.

34/114006 Im. Oct. 6, wing 68, tail 68. Outer primaries in sheaths.

The notes above were prepared in 1935 but after consulting "The Sequence of Plumages and Moults of the Passerine Birds of New York" by Jonathan Dwight Jr., I decided that my discovery was not of much consequence. However, at the annual meeting in January 1950 of the Northeastern Bird-Banding Association there was some discussion regarding wing molt in Song Sparrows as an age criterion. Not having my notes to refer to I took no part in the discussion but decided to publish them instead.

Dr. Dwight states: "First winter plumage of Song Sparrow is acquired by a partial sometimes complete, postjuvinal moult which involves the body plumage and tail and very often, part at least, of the remiges. The renewal of five or six outer primaries occurs in nearly all young birds of this species and is very likely characteristic of the first brood." (Annals of New York Academy of Sciences XIII (1900), p. 202.) —Olive P. Wetherbee, 11 Dallas St., Worcester, Mass.