

In the winter of 1953-1954 I saw B-AW only on April 23 and 29. On the latter date its breast was much streaked, its whites were brighter than those of most mid-winter birds but still only grayish white, and its throat patch bore the two dark lines.

Forbush (*Birds of Massachusetts*, 3: 73, 1929) has this note on White-throat plumage: "Mr. M. J. Magee sends me a record of a banded bird (that he believes was hatched in 1925) that had not attained full adult plumage on May 5, 1927. Some require an extra year, or possibly even more, to assume highest plumage." — Hervey Brackbill, 4608 Springdale Avenue, Baltimore 7, Maryland.

Long-distance Recovery of Barn Owl. — A juvenal Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*), No. 546-06106 that I banded near Kempton, Penna., on June 10, 1953, was "found dead in yard — no visible injury" at Key West, Florida, the following December 10. The distance from Kempton to Key West is about 1,140 miles and, according to the dispersal study of Barn Owls made by Paul A. Stewart (*Auk*, 69: 227-245, 1952), the present record apparently represents the most southerly recovery of a Barn Owl.—Maurice Broun, Kempton, Penna.

Notes on Woodcock Chicks Reared in Captivity.—Four Woodcock (*Philohela minor*) chicks were picked up on a road in the Township of Duane (Franklin County, N. Y.) at 10 a.m. on June 4, 1951, by a local resident who stated that the mother bird had been killed by a car. The brood was turned over to District Game Manager Greenleaf T. Chase at Saranac Lake at 7:30 p.m., but did not accept their first food in captivity until 10 p.m. Thus the chicks, probably in their second day of life, had been without food at least 12 hours.

Chase followed a schedule of seven feedings a day, starting at 7 a.m. and ending about 10 p.m. Pieces of small worms were used at first, but after the second day whole worms were fed.

On June 9 the chicks were transported some 180 miles from Saranac Lake to the senior author's home near Altamont, being without food from 6 p.m. on that date until 2:30 a.m. on June 10. They had been chilled during the trip, but three of them readily accepted worms as soon as offered. The fourth and smallest one finally took a few worms dangled in front of it.

Beginning at 7:30 a.m. on June 10 the chicks were fed each hour until 10:30 p.m., all of them appearing greedy at each feeding. This schedule was maintained with minor variations until the birds were released on June 26.

Each chick was given two worms at a feeding for the next two days, and four per meal on June 14. Thereafter no attempt was made to count the worms consumed. The chicks usually appeared willing to eat more worms than were offered. The worms fed through June 14 were relatively small, averaging perhaps 2½ inches in length and one-eighth inch in diameter. From June 15 on, large "night-crawlers" were included in the diet, these usually being cut into pieces.

After eating several worms, and particularly after swallowing a night-crawler, a considerable bulge was evident on the neck of each chick. This invariably was to the right of the center of the throat and appeared as a lump covered with thin, naked skin. The writhing of the worms within was quite evident. The distension often was apparent for 10 minutes or longer, following a meal. Later, as the down on the neck was replaced by feathers, these bulges became much less noticeable.

A pan of dirt containing worms was made available on June 16 but no attempts at probing were noticed until the following day, the birds then being about 14 days old. During the last few days in captivity they obtained all their food by probing in the dirt-filled pan.

The chicks spent most of the time during the first two weeks in a cardboard carton indoors, occasionally being taken out and placed in a sunny spot in the yard. Thereafter they were kept outdoors in a mesh-wire enclosure on fair days, but were brought inside at night. Upon being placed in the enclosure they would move about busily for a time, picking at an occasional insect or attempting to probe in the dry, hard turf. After a bit they usually settled down singly in the sun with wings partly outstretched and feathers fluffed, or gathered in a group in a shady spot. While wandering about in the pen they frequently exhibited the "bobbing" habit characteristic of many shore-birds.

The development of the primary and secondary feathers first was noted on the fifth day in captivity, at the probable age of 6 days. Down appeared to persist