

greater size, appeared browner on the sides than their lesser ally.

On one occasion a Shrike entered the trap and killed four of the birds. These were sent to Mr. Edward H. Forbush, who, with Mr. John A. Farley, identified them, three as the Lesser and one as the Greater Redpoll (*Acanthis l. rostrata*). The birds were sexed by Mr. James L. Peters, who reported the Greater Redpoll to be a male. The birds were presented to the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Patten, Maine

REVIVAL OF JUVENAL HABITS

BY CHARLES L. WHITTLE

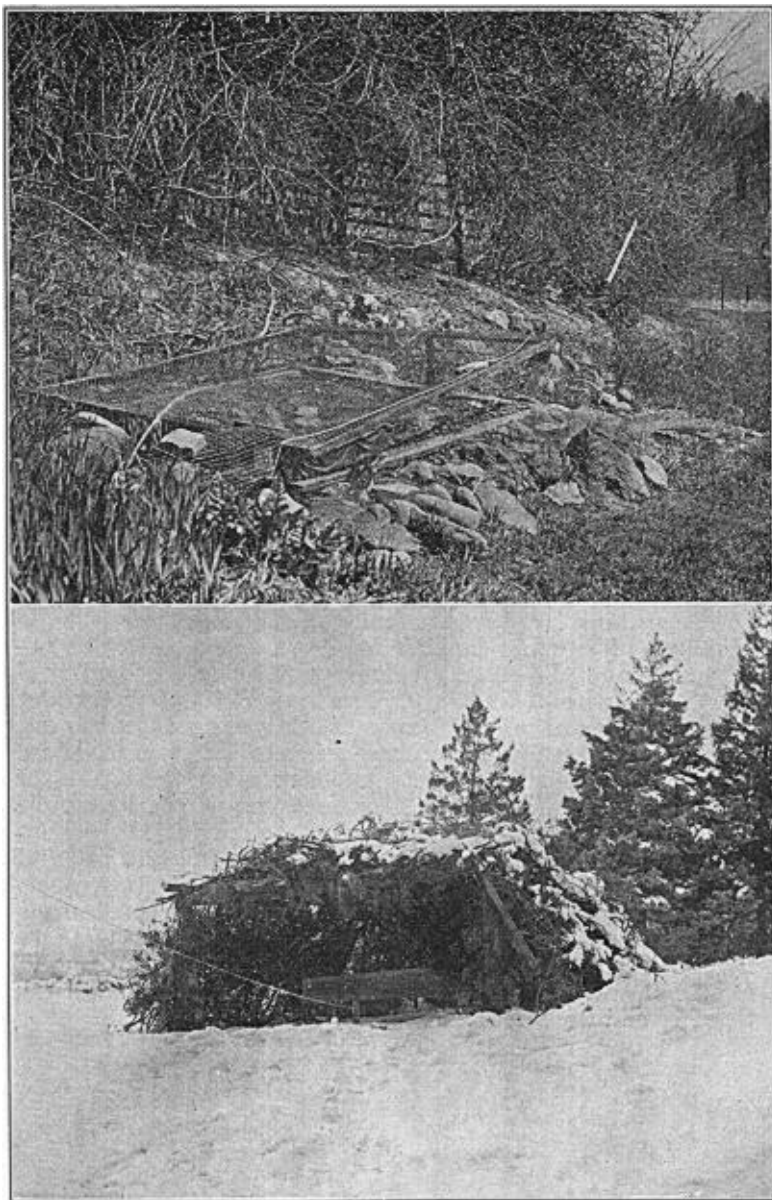
THOSE banders who concentrate their birds at feeding places and traps located close to their homes have an excellent opportunity to observe certain habits among birds and at the same time are often able, in the case of banded birds, to determine the age and sex of the birds having such habits. Knowledge of this sort may be important. I have in mind the not unfamiliar habit some birds possess in the spring, even before mating has taken place, of fluttering their wings and begging for food in exactly the same manner that birds just out of the nest are accustomed to do. In cases where our New England birds do this, say in early April, they are commonly believed to be females, and in some cases they no doubt are, a common example being the White-breasted Nuthatch. Accompanying this behaviour, in case of the Purple Finches (*Carpodacus p. purpureus*), the birds often utter the same double note, or hunger call, given while on the nest and for a short period immediately after they leave it. This recrudescence of the ways of babyhood is of great interest and significance in that similar calls are given at such times by several species, and often identical ones, indicating, I believe, as would be expected on evolutionary grounds, that nesting calls are highly primitive in character.

The Purple Finch perhaps affords banders the best opportunity to study these habits, and at the same time their relations to the age and sex of the birds having them. In early July, in southern New England, young Purple Finches fre-

quently follow their parents to our banding stations. These young-of-the-year, all olivaceous birds and precisely alike so far as plumage is concerned, are readily recognized as such. They are constantly begging for food and fluttering their wings, and their appeals are often directed to the adult male birds. Their unsophisticated ways are youthful, and in the hand the unworn character of their plumage and large tarsi afford positive evidence of their age. During the following winter, as far as my experience goes, behaviour of this kind does not take place, but by late April or early May it is again a common sight to witness olivaceous Purples repeating both the begging for food by fluttering the wings, and at the same time giving the nesting-time double hunger note.

Up to this point all is clear enough, but it remains to be learned whether this behaviour is confined to the immature females, birds not yet a year old, or to immature males of the same age, or to mature females. When possible, banders should record the age and sex of birds at the time banded, and thus be in a position to answer this question by observing their behaviour as they return year after year, when their ages are still known.

The striking fact that the food-call of young birds, even in members of different families is often identical, may be observed without difficulty, a case in point being the identity of the double note of the Purple Finch and that of the Scarlet Tanager as heard in early June. Birds making these appeals for food, if successful in securing a favorable response, afford one of the most enjoyable sights of the many the bird-lover experiences, and I cannot forbear mentioning a recent example in the case of the latter species. On June 3rd a female Scarlet Tanager (*Pyrranga erythromelas*) was heard giving this call and nervously flying about from limb to limb with quivering wings. After a minute or two a male Tanager, his scarlet plumage flashing in the sunshine, suddenly appeared in the distance flying straight towards the female, with a large insect or grub in his bill, which he generously fed her. They then flew away together and were doubtless mates.



Upper Picture, Fountain Pull-string Trap
Lower Picture, Winter Pull-string Trap