

to swarm about us most attractively unperturbed, while, invisible to them, we gaze out from the dim interior, by the roaring fire.—F. B. WHITE, Concord, New Hampshire.

**A Return-4 Rose-breasted Grosbeak.**—On June 13, 1924, at my station in Peterboro, New Hampshire, I banded male Rose-breasted Grosbeak No. 117449. At the time of banding, this bird was in mature plumage, with primaries black, and hence was at least two years old. He was a return-1 May 24, 1925; a return-2 June 18, 1926; a return-3 May 15, 1927; and a return-4 on June 23, 1929. He was not taken in 1928. This record proves the bird to be now at least seven years old. It is regrettable that the bird could not have been taken first as a young-of-the-year, so that a study might have been made of its complete plumage changes. Jonathan Dwight refers to the extraordinary individual variation in the plumage of the male of this species. The variation in a number of individuals, if studied in the light of a knowledge of the bird's age, might be found to be based on a law of sequence. Banders who are fortunate enough to take this species in juvenal plumage, with a good succession of returns, have an unusual opportunity to note plumage changes in great detail—an opportunity not possessed by ornithologists studying collections.—HELEN G. WHITTLE, Peterboro, N. H., June 27, 1929.

**Banding Notes from Dover, Massachusetts.**—During the winter of 1923-4, I banded a number of birds at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Arthur B. Emmons 2d, in Dover, Mass. At that time I was living in a rather thickly settled neighborhood near Boston, where birds were not numerous, but as I had formerly lived in Dover I knew that Mrs. Emmons had been successful for a number of years in feeding and attracting birds, so I thought that her home would be a good place to establish a banding station. The house is situated on a knoll in the woods (largely white pines and oaks), but with open fields not far away, and the locality appears to be a favorable one for many species of birds. A few months after I started banding operations at Dover, Mrs. Emmons secured a permit and from that time on only her bands were used.

On a recent visit to Dover after an absence of some two or three years, I was much pleased to find that a few of my birds still came to the Emmons station and that many birds banded in subsequent years were still in more or less regular attendance. Birds of several species were numerous around the house and I had what was to me the novel experience of sitting at the dining table and watching a Ruffed Grouse feeding on the porch, only a few feet away. Mrs. Emmons said that there were at least four of these birds which came regularly to feed on the porch, where grain was scattered on the floor, and that last winter there were five, but that one was killed by flying against the plate-glass window of the dining-room! The winter before there were eight birds. It was a satisfaction to hear of this, in view of the present scarcity of Ruffed Grouse in many parts of New England.

I saw a Phoebe's nest which had a rather interesting history. The birds started to build on the front porch, but before the nest was finished they started another at the other corner of the porch. Then when this nest was only partly completed they carried the material from both nests around to the kitchen porch, where they finally set up housekeeping in the nest which I saw.

I found that Mrs. Emmons had records of 476 birds banded (including 50 banded by me), as follows: Hairy Woodpecker 13, Downy Wood-