

This method has been employed with a group of twenty Golden-crowned Sparrows (*Zonotrichia coronata*) held in an aviary to determine the complicated sequence of changes in crown pattern correlated with age. Individuals taken in October display strong age contrasts in skull condition. The crown feathering was so little disturbed by the procedure that upon immediate release in the aviary the alteration of the smooth contour of head feathering was scarcely noticeable. No scratching of the celloidin seal ensued. The birds showed little excitement during the inspection. Apparently the most disturbing action is the plucking of the crown feathers. After that the birds are quiet. The actual operation would seem to be less severe than blood-bank procedures, with which many persons are now intimately familiar. The skull operation, after a little practice, takes less than two minutes. It is not nearly as disfiguring, even temporarily, as the frontal injuries which many birds receive in the course of ordinary banding activity, and there are not the associated dangers of concussion and tumor growth.

Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California.

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#### GENERAL NOTES

**Two Starlings banded as nestlings returned to their birthplace.**—One young Starling (*Sturnus v. vulgaris*) No. 40-221124, banded in the nest on May 23, 1942, at the Quebec Zoological Garden, Charlesbourg, Quebec, Canada, was found dead on June 9, 1944, shortly after it had been killed by foxes in an enclosure at the Zoo, some 200 feet from its birthplace. The bird was eating meat scraps inside the enclosure when killed.

Another nestling, No. 40-221132, banded on May 23, 1942, from a nest in a 56-room bird house at the Quebec Zoo was caught in a room of the same bird house on May 21, 1945, when he was feeding a brood of four young. This Starling had been color banded, and through previous observations had been found to be a male.

Twenty-eight young Starlings were banded in 1941 and 41 in 1942 in that bird house, but the young from the broods of 1943 and 1944 were not banded. Breeding adults were not trapped in the house previous to the summer of 1945 when 57 adult Starlings were banded. From that number, only one "return" was recorded and it was No. 40-221132.

No attempt has been made to trap and band the Starlings breeding in the vicinity of that colony. Raymond Cayouette, La Société Zoologique de Québec, Charlesbourg, Québec, Canada.

**Catbird Age and Return Records.**—In the past decade, *Bird-Banding* has published reports on the banding of Catbirds (*Dumetella carolinensis*) in North Carolina, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania (1935, M. A. Boggs, 6: 134; 1939, W. R. Batezel, 10(3): 124; 1940, G. Gill, 11(1): 21-22; 1944, H. Groskin, 15(4): 160 and 1945, 16(3): 106).

At Nashville, Tennessee, Catbirds appear about mid-April and remain into