

On White-throated Sparrow Plumages.—On Dec. 3, 1950, I trapped and banded a first White-throated Sparrow at my Garden City, N. Y. station, No. 138-102953.

Some White-throats in fall and winter are in rather bright plumage. A majority are dull, and many of the duller, especially in fall, are streaked below. I had considered these last, at least, young-of-the-year in their first winter. This was an exceptionally and recognizably dull one of them.

A banded White-throated Sparrow, presumably this individual as I had banded no other (certainly for seven years), was observed on 24 dates from Dec. 10 to May 3, 1951.

On 13 dates from Nov. 10, 1951 to Feb. 16, 1952, a banded White-throat in, as near as I could remember it, the same plumage was observed. There was a faint central spot and streaking on its breast, distinct stripes on its flanks, and it had no noticeable white throat, perhaps partly because same was not delimited by darker color on the breast (Dec. 25). If a bird of mine, this had to be No. 138-102953, and though I failed to recapture it in this plumage, now that all the evidence is in, I believe that it was that.

Later on Feb. 16, another similar, slightly less dull bird was captured and banded No. 138-102985; also on Feb. 18 a rather bright bird 138-102987. There were now three banded individuals frequently observed at the station. When one of the dull ones occurred alone I was never quite sure which it was. Two together, however, on Feb. 17, April 12, 15 and 16, were presumably that of Nov. 10 (I believe No. 138-102953 of 1950) and of Feb. 16 (No. 138-102985); and I thought one on May, 3, 4 and 5 was the former.

I detected no change in the plumage of either dull bird. A bright banded individual (presumably No. 138-102987), however, had head-stripes notably whiter on April 6 than March 1 to 26. It was in high plumage later in April, last observed April 26 and May 1.

A dull, banded White-throated Sparrow observed at the station Oct. 28 to 31, 1952, had white throat obvious, breast (with central spot) and sides, lightly but appreciably streaked. It was in much the plumage of No. 138-102985 of the preceding February, and was probably that in its second, or 138-102953 in its third winter. I had changed my trap in the hope of recapturing one of these banded birds, and beginning in November in that season of 1952-53 trapped and banded a dozen or so White-throats, making sight identification of any individual impossible.

But my first recapture of any was not until Dec. 11, 1953, No. 138-102953, of 1950. It was now in rather dull plumage, central crown stripe inconspicuous, in front of eye barely if at all tinged with yellow, with bold, blackish malar stripes through either side of its white throat, which was well defined from the dark wash on the breast, and it had no obvious streaking on its lower parts. One might have supposed it to be in its second, but it was certainly in its fourth winter.

Summary: It is probably that the dull White-throated Sparrow plumage, streaked below, may carry through at least a second winter, and a bird in intermediate plumage was definitely in its fourth winter. A bright winter bird, became whiter about the head in early April (presumably the same individual) and was in high plumage later in the month, last observed May 1.—J. T. Nichols, The American Museum of Natural History, Central Park West at 79th St., New York 24, N. Y.

The 1953 Returns of Chimney Swifts at Kent, Ohio.—For the tenth consecutive year a study was made of the nesting population of Chimney Swifts (*Chaetura pelagica*) on the campus of Kent State University at Kent, Ohio. In 1953 the Chimney Swifts came back to the campus on April 25 and during the season there was a total of 45 returns from the previous banding of 712 individuals. Of the 45 returns, 12 are known to be males, 11 were females, while the remaining 22 have not yet had their sex determined. The number returned from each year's banding was as follows: 1944 (1); 1945 (1); 1946 (1); 1947. (4); 1948 (1); 1949 (6); 1950 (6); 1951 (9); 1952 (16).

There were 12 mated pairs, four of which were the same as during the preceding year and they also nested in the same separate air shaft as the year

before. Another four pairs consisted of one individual nesting in the same place as the previous year but with a new mate. In all but one such cases the former mate did return in 1953, and one of them returned to the shaft where it nested the year before, but these three did not continue nesting with their former mates. Only one of the replacements for these had nested on the campus in past years. One female has been known to nest on the campus every year for ten consecutive years. Seven Swifts nested on the campus for the first time, but in every case they were mated with former nesting birds. Two of the new nesting birds were banded in 1951, four in 1952, and one in the spring of 1953. Most of them were juveniles when banded.

There were three threesomes and one foursome which were observed. Of the 13 birds involved, six had previously been in a similar grouping in past years. On the other hand, three former non-breeding birds which were occasional visitors with nesting birds of the previous year had mates of their own in 1953. Two of them were mated to each other.

Nineteen Swifts which were captured at least one week before nesting began, later nested in the same air shaft from which they had been first recaptured that season. One remained as a visitor with the mated pair in the same shaft from which it was first recaptured. On the other hand, six, captured before nesting began, later nested in some air shaft other than the one where first recaptured that season. Three others taken early did not remain on the campus for nesting, and three more taken just as nesting was getting under way soon departed from the campus colony. Eight others were not captured until nesting was just beginning or already underway. Five of these were breeding birds and three were visitors with same mated pair. Five returns were not found until after the nesting season was over. One of these had not been recaptured since it was banded in 1951.

Altogether, 17 Swifts were first found in 1953 in the shaft in which they had nested the previous year, and all but one continued to nest in the same shaft. Nine returned to a former roosting site, two of which remained there for nesting, three remained as visitors, one nested in a different shaft, one left the colony, and two were not found until after nesting was completed. One Swift in its first year was found dead on the campus on July 9.

The last Chimney Swift observed in 1953 was seen on October 6. The previous annual report on Chimney Swift returns at Kent State University was published in *Bird-Banding* 24(1): 17-18. 1953.—Ralph W. Dexter, Department of Biology, Kent State University, Kent, Ohio.

Red-eyed Vireo Throws Banded Young Out of Nest.—At 10:30 a.m. on July 4, 1953, when they were 6 and 7 days old, I color-banded the 3 young in a nest of the Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*) that I was watching in Baltimore. Following her very next delivery of food, the color-banded female parent—who cared for this brood unaided—began trying to clean the nest of the bands, and on several of her visits during the next hour she pulled a bird's leg up to the nest-rim in these efforts. More, somehow unnoticed by me, she actually threw the 6-day-old bird out of the nest; I discovered it gone at 11:30, when I checked up before leaving. An immediate search of the bushes and ground failed to disclose the nestling, but at about 5 p.m. both it and one of the others were found on the ground several yards from the nest. They were put back—the third was still in the nest—and were successfully raised; by 9 a.m. on July 5, when I could next watch the nest, the female was paying no attention to the bands.

Lovell (*Bird-Banding*, 16: 144-145, 1945) observed similar conduct by a Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*) and believed it occurred with Prairie Horned Larks (*Eremophila alpestris*). Berger (*Bird-Banding*, 24: 19-20, 1953) gave a definite Horned Lark record. Lees (*British Birds*, 41: 64, 1948) saw a female Chaffinch (*Fringilla coelebs*) and a pair of British Robins (*Erithacus rubecula*) act similarly. Stephens (A Study of A Red-eyed Vireo's Nest which Contained A Cowbird's Egg, *Bull. Lab. Nat. Hist., State Univ. Iowa*, 7 (3), 1917, p. 4 of reprint) tells of a female Red-eyed Vireo that threw one of her young out of the nest in trying to transfer food from its mouth to that of a nest-mate.—Hervey Brackbill, 4608 Springdale Avenue, Baltimore 7, Maryland.