

AN ALBINO ENGLISH SPARROW

by Marie Dumont

Have had the pleasure of trapping an albino English Sparrow on August 10th, 1953, on the property of Mr. George Leaver, West End Avenue, Pompton Plains, New Jersey. The bird was first reported as being seen about a mile northeast of where it was trapped, by a Mrs. Bliss who claims that it was hatched in a rain gutter on her home. She also stated that a week later a second albino sparrow was seen being fed by its mother. She is positive of this as she claims that she and a neighbor saw two separate mothers feeding two albino sparrows, one bird appearing much younger than the other. I questioned her as to whether she didn't see a male and a female English Sparrow feeding the two young, but she seems to be positive that both old birds were females and that because each hatched an albino young, they must have been mated to the same male bird.

She may be correct as to seeing two albino sparrows, because a Mr. Valentine who lives at 33 Franklin Avenue and to whom I am indebted for his telling me about seeing albino birds at his home as well as at his employer's (Mr. Leaver) home and who also suggested that I set a trap to identify the species reported to me that he saw two distinct all-white sparrow-like birds around Mr. Leaver's property. -- Mrs. Gustave A. Dumont, Sr., 311 Pompton Turnpike, Pequannock, New Jersey

* * *

A JUNCO NOTE

by Marie Dumont

The following occurred at the station which my son, Gustave A. Dumont, Jr., operates at his home at 242 Mountain Avenue, Pompton Plains, New Jersey.

On December 18, 1950, he banded a male Slate-colored Junco with band number 40-96331. It repeated twice and then wasn't taken again until March 27, 1955 at our main station in Pequannock 3½ miles away.

On January 13, 1954, he banded a female Junco with number 50-65631 in the same trap and location at which 40-96331 had originally been taken.

On March 27, 1955, this female was taken at the same time with the

male at the Pequannock station. It seems to me this would prove they are a mated pair this season and that at least some Juncos do wander a bit. (That they were a mated pair, or even birds just travelling together, would not seem to be indicated unless they had been taken together at different places on more than one occasion. It would appear, however, that there is a movement of wintering Juncos between the two stations, and, in the present instance, the movements both were in the same direction. What experience have other banders had in this respect? --Ed.)

* * *

AN EXPERIMENT WITH THE MOURNING DOVE PROJECT

by C. Brooke Worth, M.D.

In response to a circular from Harold S. Peters of the Fish and Wild Life Service to band fledgling Mourning Doves, an appeal was made in the local Swarthmore, Pa., newspaper (weekly) for information about dove's nests. This was followed up by a series of about a dozen notes, either reporting on nests found or giving general information about Mourning Dove biology, the purpose of these articles being to keep community interest in these birds at a high pitch.

The response was fairly good, although I went on quite a few wild goose chases. In several instances the squabs were too old to be disturbed, for they would have flown. All this effort resulted in the reporting of about 12 nests and the banding of 12 fledglings.

I sent a file of the newspaper clippings to Mr. Duvall and received a flattering letter from him. Despite the few birds banded, he felt that if each one of us were to band 4 fledglings, the Fish and Wildlife Service project would rapidly produce the desired results.

Next year should be better here, since Swarthmore is now alerted to the project. The editor of The Swarthmorean promises to give further free space for banding bulletins. It is likely that most local newspapers would welcome this sort of copy, since there is usually a rather strong public interest in nature topics.

Perhaps my profitable experience could be copied by others. Incidentally, I was unable, because of other duties, to look for doves' nests myself; therefore I had to rely on my fellow citizens for aid. --516 Walnut Lane, Swarthmore, Penna.

* * *