

request) will appear only twice in 1974, in Winter and Summer. The Annual Membership list and the Index to Volume 37 can go into the Supplement (since we won't have any By-Laws to account with, next year).

We hope all of you had a marvelous vacation and that the banding season this fall will be a very rewarding one!

Frederick S. Schaeffer, Editor

#### EYE LINE ON SWAMP SPARROWS

R.C. Leberman reports that his inland population of Swamp Sparrows at Powdermill Nature Reserve in western Pennsylvania can be aged in fall by the eyeline. Clear pearly white indicates, by skull ossification, adult birds. A yellow, or yellowish-green tint is found on birds incompletely ossified and therefore SY

Stations handling coastal, or other populations should check this out in their birds, and report. Dwight (1900) says of the Southern Swamp Sparrow in first winter plumage: "Superciliary line clear olive-gray or yellow-tinged".

#### FEMALE COWBIRDS

Leberman has also noticed that the skulls of some SY Cowbirds are still incompletely pneumatized into at least June, and that his returns indicate these birds could be aged SY. SY males can be aged by the retention of juvenile feathers into spring, but some SY females might be aged by skulling.

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## THE MONK PARROT: EXPERIENCES AND MEMOIRS OF A NEW IMMIGRANT

Richard D. Brown

When asked by a friend if I would like to capture two cage birds which were showing up regularly at a feeder, little did I know what I was getting into. After all, we didn't want the poor lost pets to die from our harsh Columbus, Ohio winter weather. I was surprised and admittedly elated when I found out that the birds were parrots. If no one claimed them, I would have a couple of nice pets!

Due to rainy weather, my work schedule, and the timidity of the parrots, it took several weeks to capture the birds. The net was spread high between the five foot feeder and a big maple tree. The landlady, Mrs. N., specified that the pair had to be caught together since they were inseparable buddies. It is hard enough to catch one intelligent parrot, let alone two. As luck would have it, after catching numerous other birds and scaring the parrots away each time, I caught only one parrot. What a racket...squeals, squawks... I felt like I was killing somebody! The parrot was placed in a cage close to the feeder. After much patient waiting in a light rain, the second parrot, presumably coming to the aid of its lover, became entangled in the net.

Three weeks before this experience, I had the pleasure of netting and banding a Saw-whet Owl in my suburban backyard. The Columbus Audubon Society Rare Bird Alert had called members on their list to come see the owl at my house. Mrs. N. had contacted the Columbus Audubon Society about the parrots prior to my getting involved, to find out what kind they were, would they survive the winter, etc. No sooner than I get home with my two captives, the phone rings. "This is the Rare Bird Alert calling. A pair of Monk Parrots has been sighted near Harding Hospital in Worthington and ..." I had to interrupt. "Oh no...I have just captured the birds and they are in my basement now. What do I do?"

What do you do when people are on their way to see a new life species and you have just captured the "rare" birds,