



carolina wrens, blue jays, and occasionally mourning doves will stay on a shelf for longer periods, but are quite sensitive to movement, and the gate must be closed quickly. Winter finches are wary on clear pretty days, but just prior to inclement weather they may be almost oblivious to the moving gates. At times pine siskins will completely ignore the gates no matter how they are jiggled, and continue to eat on the shelf while others are trapped and passed into the cage.

The trap I have in operation at the present is the original pilot model built from scrap materials. The shelf is  $3/4$  inch board and the frame is  $3/4$  inch strips. The sides of the trap and the four gates are  $1/2$  inch hardware cloth, and the cage is  $1 \times 1\frac{1}{2}$  inch wire. The lines are 10 pound test monofilament fishing line, and should be as short and direct as possible. Direction of the lines can be changed by passing them through screw eye rings. Vibrations due to friction of the lines against contact points can be eliminated by rubbing bar soap on the lines. A 2 ounce fishing sinker attached to the end of each line will hold it taut to avoid tangling.

--2750 Country Club Road, Winston-Salem, North Carolina 27104

CAN A YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER CONTINUE TO WEAR HY PLUMAGE INTO EARLY MAY?

By M.J. Wolcott

At Bradley's Marsh, Ontario, banding station this spring we banded six Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers (*Sphyrapicus varius varius*). Of these, two were definitely females - white throat, scattered red on the crown, large black patch on breast, surrounded by yellowish white on the abdomen. One was definitely a male - crown, chin, and throat red, bordered with black; upperparts black with white spotting, sides of head and abdomen striped black and white; breast yellowish white with large black patch; tail black with two central feathers barred. The other three birds resembled HY birds.

These three No. 110-140332 - banded on April 27 - wingchord 125mm  
 No. 110-140361 - April 28 - wingchord 125mm  
 No. 110-140383 - May 4 - wingchord 122mm

had upperparts with the black and white pattern muted by a mottled brown; the wings and tail were the usual black and white pattern of sapsuckers; the sides of the head were striped black and white, but the black was shaded with dusky brown; there was no sign of red on the crown. The throat was dull white; the chest patch was dusky brown, not black; underparts were yellowish white. The bill was bluish-black and legs and feet dull gray. The actions of the birds and the texture of the feathers made us doubt that these are fledgling birds. It is possible for sapsuckers to nest in this region, but April 27 seems early for HY birds to be ranging freely.

Checking with Roberts' Manual for Identification of Birds of Minnesota, Merrill-Wood's Bird Banders' Guide to Determination of Age and Sex, and Bent's Life Histories of North American Woodpeckers gave us no concrete help. Roberts says "the red comes in gradually on the head, and also on the throat of the male - before the black breast-patch develops." Merrill-Wood indicates all birds will (by Jan.) have some red on the head. Bent hints that "progress toward maturity continues all fall, winter, and early spring ..., but I have seen birds that had not fully completed this pre-nuptial molt by the end of April." (The underlining is mine.)

We labeled all three birds U U.

--3166 Merrill, Royal Oak, Mich. 48072

AN UNUSUAL MYRTLE (YELLOW-RUMPED) WARBLER  
By M. J. Wolcott

Michael came in from the nets and showed us only the back and tail section of the bird in his hand. From the color and markings, and the tail pattern, we named it a Myrtle Warbler (*Dendroica coronata*). He then shifted his hold on the bird to reveal the head and neck to the shoulders. These feathers were entirely white, surrounding the usual yellow crown patch. Iris was black. Upperparts were bluish gray, striped with black; underparts white; heavy black striping on side of belly; two white wing bars; three outer tail-feathers on each side with the usual white spots; the four yellow spots were bright; and feet and legs were black. There were no face markings at all. This occurred on May 18, about 7:15 A.M. at Bradley's Marsh, Ontario, on the southeast "corner" of Lake St. Clair. We banded this "Michael Myrtle" with No. 1300-22009 and labeled him AHY M. His wing chord was 70mm.

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SCARLET TANAGERS WITH WING BARS?  
By M. J. Wolcott

On May 13 five Scarlet Tanagers (*Piranga erythomelas*), four male and one female, were banded at Bradley's Marsh. This banding station is in southwestern Ontario. The first male received No. 107-019742. The wing chord measurement of 95mm was recorded. The solid black wings were scarlet wing bars. Everyone had a good look, notes were written on the record sheet, and the tanager was released.

The next male tanager had solid black wings, no wing bars. The third, No. 107-019748, with wing chord of 97mm, also had red wing bars. The last male, later in the day, had no wing bars.

Dwight, in Sequence of Plumages and Moults of the Passerine Birds of New York, says of the First Nuptial Plumage, "It is not unusual for

only a part of the wing coverts or tertiaries to be renewed and as a freak, scarlet coverts are occasionally assumed." We have pictures of these birds.

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FREDDIE BLUELEGS  
The Lazy Oriole  
by Kendrick Y. Hodgdon

Storm clouds gathered all day. The parent orioles continue to feed their young in the top of a split-leafed maple tree, unaware of impending doom. Sometime during the night, the wind picked up, the nest swayed, thunder pealed, and lightning split the sky, lighting the area as if it were day. The winds increased, the rain came down in torrents and suddenly the nest started to tear, ripping away from the slender branches on which it was so carefully anchored. The female oriole rattled an alarm and the male replied from his perch nearby. One more huge gust of wind and the nest tore free, falling over 50 feet to the ground, as the lightning flashed. The female flew out and joined her mate. The next day they selected a tall black cherry tree for their new nesting site and started in again, the tedious task of delicately weaving their complicated nest.

The next morning, a neighbor lady picked up the nest of five baby orioles, all calling for food. These were the same five young orioles that were brought to my house this spring.

Last season, four young orioles were brought to me also, which I raised by feeding them raw hamburger, kitty vittles, egg yolk, gravel, and cod liver oil. Another one had been brought in two days later, but I had noticed its eyes were closed, yet it would grab food away from the others. It appeared otherwise healthy and ate well, but in the morning, it was dead. The next day, one of my four orioles had its eyes closed and acted healthy, but on the following day, it also died. I segregated the other three and succeeded in raising them and seeing them off as young adults. They would follow me around outside for a few days, then gradually they left the area, one by one.

This year, a pair of orioles are nesting in our maple tree and I wonder if they, or one of them, could be one of our young ones that we hand raised last season. I have tried to catch them in my mist net, but so far, I haven't succeeded.

Having successfully raised those three orioles last season, I again started with my five new babies by feeding them chopped raw hamburger, cooked egg yolks, and strawberries, then cherries, some blueberries later on, and raspberries. I remembered the kitty vittles and fed it to them, but one morning, all the babies refused it and instead readily accepted the strawberries. Perhaps they decided as a group that they were birds,