

should come so regularly to one very limited locality and not appear at other localities of similar environment with like regularity. One cannot rely at all upon reports of Bobolinks in Colorado unless they come from persons with some ornithological training, as the Lark Bunting is generally called the Bobolink, its black body and head, its white wing patches, its song, and its habit of rising in the air and singing as it descends being responsible for the erroneous identifications, though the absence of the buff nape and white lower back and tail-coverts readily distinguishes it from the Bobolink.—JUNIUS HENDERSON, *Boulder, Colorado*.

Domestic Affairs of *Spizella p. passerina*.—In these troublous days when all the world's awry, when morality among humans is seemingly at its lowest ebb, and when some of our avian friends, such as the House Wren, are charged with unbecoming practices and marital relations not substantiating the time-honored belief that birds mate for life, it is gratifying to turn to the other side of the picture.

In Cohasset, Massachusetts, on May 24, 1923, two Chipping Sparrows were taken together in a pull-string (drop-door) trap and were given numbers 34469 and 34471. At a later date these were found to be mates, 34469 being the female. In an attempt to find a fairly permanent method of coloring bands, and thus making it possible often to identify birds without trapping or handling them, the female's band was stained blue with a diamond dye and then coated with valspar varnish. This experiment was successful for thirty days, by which time the stain had flaked off.

Both Sparrows repeated together on May 25. On June 24, they were taken together again at which period they were frequently together in the trap, after food for their uncontrollable youngsters, calling from an apple tree close to the house. Again on September 5, 1923, after the nesting and molting seasons were over, they were once more captured together and they continued to visit the trap up to the sixteenth of the month, showing that the mating relationship still obtained. The last visit to the trap for the season of 1923 was by the male No. 34471, on September 29, at which time this species occurred in flocks in the neighborhood, no doubt preparatory to migration.

During the nesting season of 1924, Chipping Sparrows were first seen about the banding station the latter part of May, and among them two banded birds were noted for several days. On June first, Mrs. Whittle saw them enter the trap together and their numbers proved to be returns 34469 and 34471. It is not known whether they migrated south together or returned together. When the territory lying between the summer and the winter homes of this species shall be properly organized for bird-banding work, questions of this kind undoubtedly will be answered. From June 1 to August 15, 1924, this pair of birds visited the station daily and usually several times each day, and during this period they have raised two broods of two birds each. In the case of each brood, a few days prior to the termination of the parental relationship, the young birds followed

the old ones to the trap in which the youngsters were fed by their parents, thus furnishing proof of their kinship. The band numbers borne by the first brood are 86443 and 86444 and by the second brood 6002A and 6003A.

The record to date shows that this pair of Chipping Sparrows has lived together throughout the nesting seasons of 1923 and 1924, and that during this time they have raised at least three broods. It also shows that the mated relationship was maintained in 1923 after all family cares were over, in fact up to the probable time of migration. It is of course not known whether the history of this pair is an exceptional one or a normal one. Further observations will doubtless settle the matter. Bird banding, even at a single station, affords a definite means for obtaining many minute details of a species' life history and the work is both of value scientifically and of great fascination.

The data given above and much more not pertinent to this note, were secured by operating a single 34" X 34" pull-string trap placed on the ground about ten feet from a window, just inside of which there is a table in which the paraphernalia of banding are placed; where all birds trapped are handled, studied and banded, and where systematic, daily, all-the-year-round notes of all the happenings, birdwise, about the station are recorded.

Perhaps this little story of the domestic affairs of these birds may encourage others, who cannot operate a large banding station on account of the time and labor involved, to take up bird-banding on a less ambitious scale. I think it can be safely asserted that a single well-located and conscientiously-operated pull-string trap will yield ornithological data of value, the more careful and detailed the observations and the more unremitting the taking of notes, the greater the scientific output.—CHARLES L. WHITTLE, *Cohasset, Mass.*

Violet Green Swallow in Illinois.—During the early seventies, George F. Clingman was my constant companion on collecting trips through the (then) wilderness of swamps and woods known as the Calumet region, which is now in Chicago—some of the rarer birds taken have already been recorded by authors of Illinois bird lists.

Later Wm. Clingman began a systematic collection of the birds of the Chicago area, most of which are mounted, and has presented it to the Bryn Mawr High School.

Recently he asked me to identify some of the birds, among which I was surprised to find a male *Tachycineta thalassina lepida* taken May 4, 1897.

Other rather rare species for this locality are a male Whistling Swan at Calumet Lake, Cook Co., Ill., March 20, 1894; a fine male *Falco peregrinus anatum*, September 29, 1899—also a female *Cathartes aura septentrionalis*, May 3, 1899, and a female *Centurus carolinus*, April 2, 1897. A rather late record of *Ectopistes migratorius* is a young male, September 30, 1901. These birds were collected in what is now the thickly built up