

article may question the possibility of any spider indigenous in the New England States constructing a web of sufficient strength to hold even a very small bird. I coincide in this view with the exception of this particular spider, *Argiope aurantia*.

Mr. Emerton has kindly shown me a specimen of a large female of this spider with a yellow and black body and long black legs, whose body is as large as the end of one's finger. It usually spins its web near the ground between two bushes where there is rather dense undergrowth, leaving only a contracted space between them, with a sort of lane or pocket behind.

Mr. Emerton showed me photographs of such webs in place, and made the suggestion that a small bird on becoming entangled might not have sufficient space to exert its full strength to liberate itself; he also thought it unlikely that the spider would have been able to kill the bird.—GEORGE H. MACKAY, *Nantucket, Mass.*

**An Early Collection of Birds.**—My friend, Mr. Harrold E. Gillingham, has called my attention to an advertisement which he discovered in a copy of the 'Pennsylvania Packet' published in Philadelphia, on April 20, 1772, which reads as follows: "A Collection of preserved North American birds to be disposed of. Inquire of the Printer."

As this was over twenty years before Alexander Wilson arrived in America and thirteen years before Audubon was born, it would be interesting to know who the collector may have been.—WITMER STONE, *Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia.*