

hit or run over. The stomachs of all of them contained fine gravel, presumably from the roadways, mixed with unidentified vegetable material. Calcium chloride is reported as injuring a dog's feet when the animal had been running over paths treated with this chemical and its effect in a bird's stomach might be serious. Mr. Lee S. Crandall, Curator of Birds of the Bronx Zoological Park, informs me that the Veterinarian of the park, Mr. L. J. Goss, states that calcium chloride is definitely poisonous and would kill the birds that ate it or gravel coated with it.

The unusual congregation of individuals in the locality still requires explanation. It may have been due to the attraction of the gravel, to a craving for salt, for which the chemical may have provided an erroneous substitute, or to moisture gathered by the hygroscopic chloride. The fact that the birds' stomachs contained gravel mixed with food strengthens my belief that the gravel, itself, may have formed the attraction. A cleared, unfrozen roadway in the Adirondacks in winter would have provided an unusual opportunity to get this needed material, in this case with unfortunate results. In any case, the circumstance raises the question of the advisability of using calcium chloride where it might cause a repetition of the disaster.—EDITOR.]

**A bird tragedy.**—On June 6, 1941, near Marshall, Harrison County, Texas the writer saw a Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*) fluttering in the window of a small cabin adjacent to a lake. On approaching the cabin the bird was found to be trapped inside. The door was opened, and the Bluebird escaped. Its manner of flight indicated that it was in a weakened condition. On entering the cabin seven dead Bluebirds were found on the floor. Some appeared to have been dead several weeks. They were all in an emaciated condition, probably dying from exhaustion and starvation. In addition to the Bluebirds, two dead Carolina Wrens (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*) also were found. These apparently died in the same manner as the Bluebirds.

Further investigations in the small cabin revealed the presence of a nest, containing four young Carolina Wrens, located in one corner of an old ice box. Leaving the cabin, the writer remained nearby to watch. Presently a wren flew to the cabin and entered through an obscure opening in the wall about one and one-half inches wide. A Bluebird that had been flying around went into the stovepipe chimney and down its six-foot shaft to the L-bend where the pipe entered the cabin. On going back into the cabin, a small rusted hole was found in the under side of the stovepipe adjacent to the cabin wall. Within the hole, toward the outside, were nest materials, presumably a Bluebird's nest.

A possible explanation for the disaster was that the birds had descended the chimney and, by mistake, entered the cabin through the rusted hole. The lighted window attracted the trapped birds. This attraction, no doubt, reduced their chances of finding other means to escape. The nesting wren, on the other hand, was able to find its way in and out through the crack in the wall.—ROLLIN H. BAKER, *Texas Game, Fish and Oyster Commission, Lufkin, Texas.*

**Longevity and other data on a captive English Sparrow.**—Recently, in Albany, New York, occurred the death of a rather remarkable captive male English Sparrow (*Passer domesticus domesticus*). Certain information concerning this bird was furnished through the kindness of the owner, Mrs. Alfred Stromberg, 129 Main Avenue, Albany, New York, while other data were obtained through my own per-