

Whatever difficulty there may be in seeing directly beneficial results from the consumption of weed seeds by birds, the economic tendency of this activity is certainly in a beneficial direction. It may not be great but it is good. It can not properly be called neutral for that term can be correctly applied only to the relationships of birds to neutral things.—W. L. McATEE.

**Vesper Sparrows mated two successive summers.**—On June 12, 1943, in Pennfield Township, Calhoun County, Michigan, I found the nest of a Vesper Sparrow, *Pooecetes gramineus gramineus* (Gmelin), containing four fresh eggs, weighing 11.5 grams. These eggs measured 22.5 x 16, 22 x 15.5, 22.5 x 15.5, and 22.3 x 16 mm. Three of them hatched on June 24, the fourth on June 25. On June 30, both parents were captured at the nest with a funnel trap and marked with colored bands as well as aluminum ones. On July 2, the three remaining young also were banded. The birds were observed periodically during July but no other nest was found.

The first male Vesper Sparrow returned to the area on April 7, 1944, and on April 20, 1944, the male of 1943, marked with the colored bands, was battling for territory with two neighboring males. He settled on the same side hill for the second successive year, but a nest was not found until May 25, 1944. On that date it contained two young about three days old and one unhatched egg (the egg measured 22.5 x 16.7 mm.). One young died from an undetermined cause. The female was almost immediately observed and was found to be the bird banded the previous year and thus mated for the second season to male 41-120096. She was observed periodically during the summer but no other nests of the pair were found. The one young left the 1944 nest on May 31.—LAWRENCE H. WALKINSHAW, *Battle Creek, Michigan*.

**Sitka Crossbills in Massachusetts.**—Examination of the Red Crossbills in the F. Seymour Hersey bird collection, recently donated by Mr. Hersey to the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, reveals eight specimens of the Sitka Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra sitkensis*) from Massachusetts. Four males and two females were taken at Chatham, Mass., on December 27, 1919. The other two, both females, were secured on January 22, 1920, at the same place. These specimens were compared with a large series of *Loxia c. sitkensis* from coastal Oregon and the identifications were later corroborated by Dr. Harry C. Oberholser.

Griscom (Proc. Boston Soc. Nat. Hist., 41, No. 5: 123-124, January, 1937) has recorded in his excellent *A Monographic Study of the Red Crossbill* a single Sitka Crossbill collected in Massachusetts during the winter of 1887-1888, and two others taken in that state in the winter of 1899-1900. He lists a fourth Massachusetts-taken specimen (tom. cit., p. 158) which apparently is without date.

The Hersey collection, then, adds eight instances of the occurrence of the Sitka Crossbill in Massachusetts and demonstrates a third winter, that of 1919-1920, as one in which this small crossbill is known to have visited that state.—W. EARL GODFREY, *Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Cleveland, Ohio*.