

At the time of banding, her weight was 27.75 grams, and when recaptured she weighed 28.50 grams, showing that she was well nourished. It is doubtful, however, if she could have fed herself properly on the normal food of the species gleaned in the customary way.

The next day after the operation, she had regained her old-time feeding-habits and at the same time a renewed self-assertion not observed during the previous month.

On December 24, 1926, it was apparent that the culmen was already considerably longer than the lower mandible. As seen with bird glasses the disparity amounted to about one-eighth of an inch—CHARLES L. WHITTLE, Cohasset, Massachusetts.

Nestling Sparrow Hawks (*Falco s. sparverius*). One evening last May my friend Mr. George C. Deane, of Cambridge, told me that a pair of Sparrow Hawks had nested under the eaves of his house and were then feeding their young. I had always coveted a pet Sparrow Hawk and asked if it would be possible to reach the nest.

A few days later he told me that the young birds were visible at times and seemed pretty well fledged. A long extension ladder being available, I decided to try to get one of the young birds.

The nest was built just below the wide overhanging eaves, where a rain-conductor passed down between two supporting brackets. The nest itself was a flat platform of rubbish on the bend of the pipe and the young might easily have fallen to the ground. Four partly fledged nestlings, with stubby wings and tails, and still showing considerable white down, were in the nest. There were three females and one male, showing the characteristic sex differences plainly. I banded all four birds and put two of the females back, keeping a pair. These two birds are shown on the cover of this *Bulletin* as photographed two days before flying; the female on the left and the male on the right. The markings on their under parts indicate the sexes, the streaked bird being the female and the dotted one the male.

It was interesting to note the difference in disposition between the two birds as their feathers rapidly developed. The female was much wilder from the start, and squealed loudly when approached. The male was very docile and would have made a delightful pet, I am sure, but unfortunately he escaped about a fortnight after he had developed his flying powers. I kept the female a few weeks longer and then released her.

The birds were marked with bands credited to Mr. George C. Deane and two of them left the nest in Cambridge, Mass., in June; the other two were released from my summer camp on Lake Asquam in New Hampshire.—JOHN B. MAY, M.D., Cohasset, Massachusetts, January 1927.

Interesting Returns.—As far as we know, a Tree Sparrow banded by Mr. R. E. Horsey, of Rochester, New York, in January, 1923, and one banded by Mrs. Mary E. F. Hubbard, of New Haven, Connecticut, and recovered by Mrs. Cora M. Teot, also of New Haven, are the two oldest birds of this species in the country, the birds being at least four and a half years old. Mr. Horsey's bird has been recaptured at his station four consecutive winter seasons and accordingly is a return the present 1926-27 season. Mrs. Teot's recovery was banded by Mrs. Hubbard February 24, 1923, and was recaptured for the first time on January 2, 1927.