

## GENERAL NOTES

**A Six-year-old Crested Flycatcher.**—Mabel Gillespie, in the *Bulletin* for 1927, Vol. III, pp. 52-54, published the nesting, history of a male Crested Flycatcher from 1923 to 1927. Under date of May 20, 1928, Mrs. Gillespie writes that "Mike is back!" having been first seen this year about May 13th. This bird is now at least six years old.

As to the further history of Crested Flycatcher No. 248735, Mrs. Gillespie writes: "He returned to Glenolden for the sixth successive season on May 11, 1928. Long familiarity with this bird has given an unmistakable individuality to his call, so that he can be distinguished from other Crested Flycatchers in the vicinity; though, of course, the positive identification was made by observing the distinctive manner in which he is banded, which makes possible a positive sight identification. By recognizing his particular call it is possible to follow his movements rather closely through the woodland. On May 19th he came to the old nest shelter, a hollow fence-post fastened horizontally to the side of the house (see cover picture), and brought a female with him. On the 20th and 21st they came again, and the female carefully inspected the cavity, which had been covered with waterproof roofing, and securely reinforced to guard against any such accident as occurred last season. On the 22d another male appeared, and the Flycatcher tried in vain to drive him away. Both males were in evidence on the 24th, but he and the female came to the nest shelter. For three days we heard the male invader, but not Mike, and then on the 28th he came alone in the afternoon to his favorite perches. He came again the next day, and on the 30th he brought nesting-material, but dropped to the ground to fight an English Sparrow before entering the cavity, and then departed. The following evening a survey of the cavity disclosed a small piece of snakeskin."

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**Notes on the Canada Jay** (*Perisoreus canadensis canadensis*).—The first Canada Jay that I saw last season was on November 3, 1927, at a camp in a swamp where a variety of timber was being cut near the east branch of the Fox River in the western part of Luce County, Michigan, seven miles west and three miles south of McMillan. Three birds were seen together on that date. As I was residing there at that time, I had a feeding station already erected ready for the first birds that might come to it.

The trap that I used was the "receiving cage" of Dodson's sparrow-trap, and the baits that seemed to be liked best by this species were bread-crumbs, suet, meat-scraps, and Dodson's suet-cake.

Birds of this species were observed at camp from the date given above until November 23rd, omitting six days. From November 24th until December 20th none was observed, but on December 21st two were seen at camp. From that date up to the time I left camp, March 12, 1928, they were observed on thirty days.

My time for banding being rather limited, only four of this species were captured. The first, No. 586296, banded November 6, 1927, repeated November 11, 1927, the only repeat I secured. This bird had some food in its bill when trapped, which it kept during the process of banding and liberation. When released, it remained in my open hand one and one half minutes, and flew then to a nearby tree. It remained there for a few minutes, and then returned to the feeding station. This bird also had

food in its bill when recaptured on November 11th, and again held onto it while being handled.

Number 586297, banded November 11, 1927, ate a small piece of bread while in the hand and took away a large piece when it was released. This bird perhaps explains where my Jays were during their long absence from camp (November 24th to December 21st), as it was reported to the Biological Survey as having been caught in a weasel-trap on December 7, 1927, seven miles north of McMillan, Michigan, by Julius VanHorne. The distance from the place of banding to the place it was recovered is approximately ten miles, showing considerable ranging about.

Number 586298, banded November 18, 1927, dropped its piece of bread in its effort to get away. It was in my open hand about five seconds, then flying to a dead fir tree about twenty feet north of the station before leaving.

Number 586304, banded January 7, 1928, gave some rather musical notes as it was released.

Although none of these birds entered my trap after January 7, 1928, the birds that were there (excepting one) were wearing bands, a fact which seemingly indicates that they were my birds returned after their long absence as stated above.

On my last day at camp, March 12, 1928, I saw one Jay gathering moss from the trees, which was very likely for nest-building.—O. M. BRYENS, McMillan, Luce County, Michigan, May 4, 1928.

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**Horned Tree Sparrows.**—At my banding station in Cohasset, Massachusetts, there is a large window feeding-shelf much frequented by several species of wintering birds. While here, they may be observed at very short range—two to four feet away if desirable.

The snowstorm of January 29, 1928, caused some half-dozen Tree Sparrows (*Spizella m. monticola*) to visit the shelf, and among them were three sight-returns, birds banded during February, 1926, and all three now at least two and a half years old, and possibly much older. One of these birds, a sight return-2, possessed symmetrically placed gray horns, a character occasionally observed and first pointed out to me by Mrs. Whittle. Many Tree Sparrows have a similar character, but less well-developed, which is quite apparent when the birds face the observer. When well-developed, the horns are easily seen from any position as they project above the crown about one eighth of an inch, lying directly over the eyes, and usually pointing vertically, as upper parts of an eyebrow-like growth of stiffish feathers.

The horns are due to the greater development of the somewhat stiff gray feathers forming the central portion of the superciliary stripe, which is usually rather raggedly fringed along its upper edge, or such feathers may take the form of somewhat projecting eyebrows, symmetrically placed over the eyes, or unsymmetrically placed extending from a point a little over the eye and rising gradually posteriorly for a length of about one fourth of an inch. Such eyebrows viewed from directly in front often are seen to project somewhat above the crown-feathers.

While not proved, it appears probable that these horns occur only on old birds. Their development may be confined to male birds only. That they are not accidental is shown by the fact that one or more birds having them are seen at my station every winter season. The feathers of that portion of the superciliary stripe lying above the eye in all specimens of the