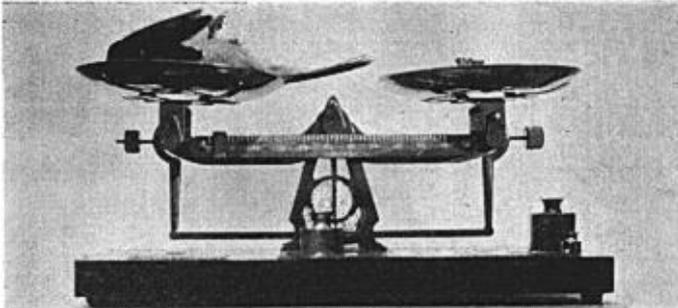


Sleep as a Reflex.—An interesting example of reflex action in bird behavior results from the placing of the bird's head under its wing in the position it naturally occupies in sleeping. If carefully done, by observing the breathing of the bird and not releasing it until the muscles seem relaxed, birds will remain quiet and apparently asleep for periods up to fifteen minutes or more. The longer periods being those of birds who tend to remain quiet in any position after capture such as Screech Owls and Blue Jays.



WEIGHING A SLEEPING ENGLISH SPARROW.

The illustration is of a House Sparrow as this species seems to be entirely free from the "playing dead" or cataleptic reaction. The actions of a bird experimented on in this manner on awakening would seem to indicate that there is no memory of its capture. Many birds which usually on being released, fly away calling, after being placed asleep, will awake very slowly, look around in every direction as if to locate themselves and then fly away slowly and silently. Edmund Selous, "Realities of Bird Life," 1927, p. 241 describes this reaction in the case of terns.

As shown in the photograph advantage may be taken of this for weighing.
—E. C. HOFFMAN, 1041 Forest Cliff Drive, Lakewood, Ohio.

Notes on the Juvenal Plumage of Male and Female Evening Grosbeaks.—This summer a few Evening Grosbeaks were feeding at my station off and on till July 14th, but were not seen again until July 28th, when a banded male and banded female accompanied by two young were seen. The two young were following the adult female, who was busy feeding them, although they were also picking around for themselves. I trapped the adult female and one of the young. The adult female carried band No. 269828, placed by me March 8, 1925, and this was the first time it was retrapped. The following day, July 29th, I trapped and banded the other young one. The next day, July 30th, I trapped both young ones, thereby having an excellent opportunity to compare them, one being a female, the other a male, both in juvenal plumage.

In my files I find the following references to juvenal Evening Grosbeaks, all seen at my house:

1921—Aug. 25, 1; Aug. 26, 2 very young birds; Aug. 29, 1.

1923—Aug. 19, 1; Sept. 3, 1; Sept. 5, 2; Sept. 8, 2.

1924—Aug. 13, 1; Sept. 8, 4; Sept. 9, 3; Sept. 10, 1; Sept. 11, 2; Sept. 13, 2.

1925—July 29, 3.