

open directly in front of the bird had no difficulty in taking it. In my hand, with its feet held between the fingers, it made no effort to get away or to bite, and submitted to being stroked and petted by the score or more to whom I displayed the prize. At dusk, after applying band No. 279510, I released the bird and watched it fly to the shelter of the pines again.

The living owls, of all species, are too interesting, and, excepting possibly the Great Horned Owl, too valuable to greet with a shot-gun at every opportunity. I have been fortunate in finding the Saw-whet Owl on four occasions, though unfortunately the first time with a gun. This was on November 10, 1913, at Westfield, Connecticut, when the Owl was flushed from the ground and shot in mistake for a Woodcock. On November 23, 1926, I discovered a Saw-Whet perched in a tree in the Sanctuary not far from where this last visitor was taken. The next night, November 24th, probably the same Owl was seen to rise from the ground just before dusk with a meadow mouse in its talons, and it flew to a low tree, where it killed and devoured its prey. The Saw-whet Owl is unmistakable if seen perched in good light; the much more rare Richardson's Owl being decidedly larger. —LESTER W. SMITH, Stone Bird Sanctuary, Babson Park, Massachusetts.

Canada Jay Migration.—An account of the unusual movement, or migration, of Canada Jays that has been taking place since last summer and is still going on (December 4, 1929) is being prepared by Harrison F. Lewis, National Parks of Canada, Ottawa, Canada, who will appreciate any information, however scanty, relating to this subject.

Bee-eating Catbird.—Italian honey-bees had invaded a flooring section of our summer cottage on the shores of Narragansett Bay by finding entrance at the edge of the porch roof. Catbirds frequently were seen flying in the vicinity as though searching for the bees. As I sat in a rocking-chair with field-glasses in hand, a Catbird was seen to fly to where the bees found entrance to their hive under the flooring of a second-floor room. The Catbird caught a bee on the wing and alighted on a porch rafter not ten feet from me. The bee was distinctly seen to be in a transverse hold in the bird's bill, but the bird by a tossing motion of the head was able to rearrange the bee so that it faced downward toward the bird's throat. Without any crushing to kill the bee, the bird swallowed it alive. I am certain of all these moves as they were very distinctly seen and were repeated on other days. As a bee is killed it is able to sting, and will sting. I have been stung by the sting many hours after it has been removed from a bee or the bee has been killed. After the live bee was swallowed by the Catbird, it doubtless lived inside the esophagus and stomach of the bird for an appreciable time. The point for settlement is whether birds are immune to bee stings and, if so, what makes them immune.—HAROLD B. WOOD, M.D., Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

More Notes on the Spring Molt of the Evening Grosbeak.—This year (1929) from April 13th, the earliest date on which I noticed any new feathers coming, to May 17th, the latest date on which I could find any new feathers, I looked over fifty Evening Grosbeaks at my banding station at Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. Thirty-one showed some molt, while on nineteen I could detect no new feathers coming. On the birds examined, the molt was largely confined to the front of the head, including chin, and the neck. I am rather of the opinion that all the birds had some molt. It is not always an easy matter to examine live birds as carefully as you would like to do. On dull and rainy days the light was sometimes poor.

Dr. Dwight in his paper "The Sequence of Plumages and Moults of the Passerine Birds of New York," published in Part I, Vol. XIII, *Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences*, Page 94, states: "The head tract is of paramount importance because if any partial prenuptial moult takes place, the new feathers will be found here and on the chin and often nowhere else," and the paragraph ends with the statement: "Although the feathers of the head tract are very numerous they are, most of them, so extremely small that their moult may be very easily overlooked."

Last year (1928) out of ninety-three birds looked over, I noted only twenty-four as showing any moult, though I may have missed some. Next spring I expect to make a further check with a more powerful glass than I used this year, so expect to detect moult on a larger number. Of the birds checked this year as showing moult, eighteen were females and thirteen were males. Dr. Dwight states under "First Winter Plumage of Male Evening Grosbeaks": "The young may be distinguished usually by the dusky inner margins of the tertiaries." Nine of the thirteen males showed dusky inner margins. As to the females, I doubt if you can be sure of the age, although I am inclined to believe that those showing the lighter color on throat are the older birds. Of the eighteen females checked some had throats of the same color as the surrounding parts, some had throats a little lighter, and others had throats very distinctly lighter. Apparently the spring moult is not confined to age or sex. The list of birds examined follows:

April 13	Male.	A number of new feathers on throat and cervix.
	Female.	A few new feathers coming on rump.
April 14	Male.	A few new feathers on cervix, jugulum, sides of neck, and lores.
	Male.	A few new feathers on chin and on sides of upper bill.
	Male.	A number of new feathers on cervix, jugulum, and sides of neck.
	Female.	Two new feathers on crown and a number on cervix, jugulum, and sides of neck.
	Female.	A number of new feathers on cervix, jugulum, and sides of neck.
	Male.	A number of new feathers on cervix, jugulum, and sides of neck, and a few in lores.
	Male.	A few new feathers in lores.
	Male.	A few new feathers in lores.
	Two, a male and a female—	no moult.
April 17	Five, two males and three females—	no moult.
April 18	Male.	No moult.
April 19	Female.	A few new feathers around base of bill.
	Male.	A few new feathers on crown, around base of bill, cervix, jugulum, and sides of neck, and three or four on breast.
	Female.	A few new feathers around base of bill and in lores.
	Male.	No moult.
April 20	Male.	A few new feathers around base of bill and neck, lores, and a patch on left auricular.
April 21	Male.	A number of new feathers on crown, cervix, jugulum, sides of neck, and base of bill.
	Female.	Moulting entire chin. Some new feathers on base upper bill, in lores, and on cervix, jugulum, and sides of neck.
	Male.	Some new feathers on chin and throat, around base of bill, cervix, jugulum, and sides of neck, and in lores.
	Female.	Some new feathers in lores, around base of bill, cervix, jugulum, and sides of neck.
	Male.	Some new feathers in lores, around base of bill, cervix, jugulum, and sides of neck.
April 23	Female.	A few new feathers in lores, cervix, jugulum, and sides of neck.
	Female.	Some new feathers on neck.
	Female.	Some new feathers on neck.
	Female.	Many new feathers on cervix, jugulum, and sides of neck.
	Female.	Some new feathers in lores, and on cervix, jugulum, and sides of neck. Trapped again May 12th, moulting apparently about completed.
April 26	Female.	Some new feathers coming on cervix, jugulum, and sides of neck.
April 28	Three, one male and two females—	no moult.
May 2	Female.	A few new feathers on cervix.
	Male.	A few new feathers right side of neck.
May 8	Female.	Two or three new feathers on cervix, a few on auriculars and lores, and two or three on crown.
	Female.	No moult.

- May 9 Female. Some very small feathers on chin at base of lower bill.
 May 10 Two, a male and a female—no moult.
 May 16 Female. Some new feathers on cervix, jugulum, and sides of neck.
 Male. No moult.
 May 17 Female. Two or three new feathers on cervix.
 Three, one male and two females—no moult.

M. J. MAGEE, Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, November 30, 1929.

Grackle Recoveries.—Several records of grackle recoveries have already appeared in issues of this *Bulletin*. In Vol. II, January, 1926, Charles B. Floyd lists the following Bronzed Grackles banded in Auburndale, Massachusetts, and taken later at other points:

Banded	Recovered
Sept. 2, 1925	Wellesley Hills, Mass. Sept. 24, 1925
Oct. 20, 1923	New Haven, Conn. Nov. 13, 1923
Sept. 11, 1922	Elizabeth, N. J. Nov. 7, 1922
Aug. 13, 1925	Benns Church, Va. Nov. 29, 1925

He notes that this indicates a southwesterly migration along the Atlantic coast. In Vol. IV of the *Bulletin*, April, 1928, Dr. E. G. Rowland reports a Bronzed Grackle banded June 6, 1926, at Norwich, Connecticut, killed in Tyner, North Carolina, December 23, 1927.

Since Mr Gillespie and I have been banding Grackles for a number of years on Martha's Vineyard, the geography of their migration has interested me considerably. It would be possible for them to move in a northerly or westerly direction to the mainland and then follow the coast of Long Island or Connecticut west and New Jersey south. This seems the more logical route, yet it is a fact that as the Grackles gather in summer flocks on the island they slowly move south toward Edgartown. This suggests the possibility of an overseas flight in a southwesterly direction toward the New Jersey coast.

Before giving the results of our two Grackle recoveries, it may be well to state that Purple, Bronzed, and intermediate blends of Grackles breed on Martha's Vineyard. During the summer, when the young birds are still dull brown in color, it is impossible to distinguish between the subspecies by any means which we have yet discovered. Therefore, by permission of the Biological Survey, the immature Grackles are banded without definite identification. Whether the migration routes would necessarily vary for Purple and Bronzed Grackles is not known, but I should be inclined to think not, because of the prevalence of intermediate hybrids.

An immature Grackle banded on Martha's Vineyard, August 12, 1927, was killed by a cat at Newport, Rhode Island, November 22, 1927. This is a bit late compared with the dates given above along the theoretical migration route, but the fact that the bird was caught by a cat suggests the possibility of its lingering behind the flock because of some physical incapacity. The proof that it had traveled west from the island to the mainland is the important detail. The bird was reported as being brightly marked with purple when caught, but as it was first incorrectly reported as a Starling we cannot be sure that it was of the subspecies *quiscula*.

Another immature Grackle banded on Martha's Vineyard July 17, 1925, was shot in Caroline County, Maryland, along the marshes of the Choptank River. This region is on the eastern shore of Chesapeake Bay. The following is quoted from the letter written us by the man who shot the bird:

"I was hunting and these grackles flew by; in the bunch was a pure white bird and I shot it, but when I did several of the grackles fell, too, and one was banded,—the one which I sent in. These grackles were of the bronzed type or species, but we have the purplish species also. Many people shoot them for food, and in fact they make an excellent dish. The