

of snow fell during March 2d and 4th. To determine the effect of fasting on the weight of this bird, it was kept supplied with water but without food for twenty-four hours, when it was released apparently as strong and active as before. The weight with crop full was 28.19 grams; at the end of six hours, 26.05 grams; at twelve hours, 25.21 grams; at eighteen hours, 24.60 grams; and at the end of twenty-four hours, 24.11 grams, showing a total loss of weight of 4.08 grams. The average weight of 25.61 grams compares favorably with average weight obtained for the larger form of Song Sparrow recorded by Charles L. Whittle (*Bulletin Northeastern Bird-Banding Association*, October 1929, p. 153), which is given as 26.00 grams. Mr. Meyers is quoted in the same article as obtaining an average weight of 26.25 grams for the same type of bird.

These Song Sparrows at this station have a length greater by from one quarter to one half of an inch than the summer resident form. The length of the individual mentioned, which was marked with band No. B98231, was 6.79 inches. The color corresponded with others of the northern form, being much browner than the resident form.—E. C. HOFFMAN, Forest Cliff Drive, Lakewood, Ohio.

Methods of Capturing Wrens.—Three species of Wrens may be found about our banding station in Glenolden, Pennsylvania. The Winter Wren (*Nannus h. hiemalis*) is a regular winter visitant, though found but sparingly. The House Wren (*Troglodytes a. aëdon*) is a common summer resident, nesting in the vicinity wherever there are bird-boxes. The Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus l. ludovicianus*) is a fairly common permanent resident. Carolina Wrens stay in pairs within a rather limited territory throughout the year. Thus it is evident that although all of these Wrens are regularly present, they never occur in numbers within the limits of our banding station.

Since the spring of 1923 we have banded three Winter Wrens, fifteen Carolina Wrens, and sixty House Wrens. The method of capturing many of these Wrens is the remarkable feature of their banding history. Wrens are almost entirely insectivorous birds, and the bait of bird-traps does not ordinarily appeal to them. Of course, the experiences of station-operators differ. Miss Marion A. Boggs of Waynesville, North Carolina, writes me that Carolina Wrens find ground nut-meats irresistible, and that they are moderately fond of cheese. Forbush in "Birds of Massachusetts" mentions that Mr. Don V. Messer, of Huntington, used Hamburg steak as bait with success. The only bait I have actually seen Carolina Wrens feed upon is suet. Since, therefore, Wrens are not readily attracted to traps by bait, it is evident that when we have caught them the lure, instead of being food, has undoubtedly been the characteristic curiosity of the Wren tribe.

Two of the Winter Wrens were taken in a Chardonneret trap. The third found its way into a screened porch, entering through a small hole in the screening.

Of the sixty House Wrens forty-five were banded as fledglings. Twelve of the adults were captured in wren-boxes with pull-string shutters. Two of the others were taken in government funnel traps. The third ran under a drop trap while we were standing near by. Mr. Gillespie ran quickly to the trap and dropped the open side before the bird escaped. This was one of the most unexpected captures we ever made.

Four of the Carolina Wrens were banded as fledglings just after they left the nest. The other eleven were adults, and eight of these have repeated several times. A pair came together into the porch through the same hole in the screening that lured the Winter Wren. A third Carolina Wren

entered through another hole in the screening a year later. A female that nested inside a garage was caught within the building in a net. One Carolina Wren was caught in a Chardonneret trap, and at various times three more were decoyed into this trap when their mates were placed in one of the compartments. Seven times Carolina Wrens have been caught in funnel traps, seven times in a round house trap, and twice in pull-string traps.

Within the past year these Wrens have been caught on the screened porch in a new way. There is a drain-opening one by three inches in size on the floor-level, which is usually kept closed by a hinged door. On two occasions when this door had been unintentionally left open, Carolina Wrens wandered in and were eventually discovered and captured. Since then the small door has been intentionally left open and three more Carolina Wrens have been captured. At least one Wren continues to come into the porch. It is now able to find the opening and escape before it can be captured.

A most surprising capture came one day in October. While seated at my desk, I heard the flutter of wings and looked up to see a Carolina Wren in the room. Although several windows were open, every one was tightly screened and there were no holes anywhere in the screening. Search eventually revealed the fact that an outside screen door had swung shut so gently that the catch was not sprung and was holding the door slightly open, leaving a crack less than two inches wide. The Wren had been obliged to come under the roof of an unscreened porch to reach this door.

That Wrens possess a trait which resembles human curiosity is a matter of common knowledge. Ornithological literature contains many references to Wrens that have wandered through small and unsuspected openings into buildings. This trait has undoubtedly been responsible for most if not all of our Wren captures, with the exception of fledglings and nesting House Wrens. Even in the case of those Wrens that were taken in traps, it was without doubt the characteristic spirit of investigation that brought them there, since the bait was not of a variety to tempt them. This realization suggests that a special technique might profitably be employed in capturing Wrens that cannot be taken by the ordinary methods of trapping.—MABEL GILLESPIE, Glenolden, Penna., March 12, 1930.

A Returning Pair of Barn Swallows (*Hirundo erythrogastra*). During the summer of 1927 a pair of Barn Swallows nested in my wood-house, but as I had not taken up banding at that time they were not banded. The following summer, 1928, the nest was again occupied, and the adults and four young were banded, the male bird [wearing band No. B29204, placed on May 26, 1928, and the female B29221, on July 14, 1928.

During the first few days of May, 1929, the male bird returned, and about five days later the female appeared. They built a new nest about four feet from the old one and reared a brood of five, which were banded.

The adult female was caught, and the number read on July 3, 1929, and the male was caught July 5, 1929. After the young left the nest, they disappeared for a few days, and then the two adult birds came back and stayed in the vicinity of the nest for two weeks, frequently occupying their favorite perch on the electric wires near by, and occasionally going in to look the nest over.

Probably at least one of this pair has nested here all three seasons, and then, too, they remained together after the young were able to shift for themselves. —JOHN W. PIGGOTT, Bridgetown, Nova Scotia.