

SPRING ROOSTS (<i>Transients</i>)			
Month	Males	Females	♂ to 100 ♀
March	16	22	72.7
April	5	10	50.0
Totals	21	32	68.7
FALL ROOSTS (<i>Transients</i>)			
October	8	9	88.9

Table 3: Sex ratios from samples of transient Crow populations taken at spring and fall roosts in Ontario, Seneca, and Cayuga Counties, New York, fall, 1932, and spring, 1933.

Although the amount of material in this case is admittedly too small to permit the formulation of definite inferences, speculation on the significance of the ratios obtained is, perhaps, permissible. The question which arises is: if these new spring arrivals resemble in their sex ratio a more southern wintering population, can we conclude that they are representatives of such a southern population, migrating northward as a unit and remaining aloof from the populations encountered in transit? This would seem to be a logical interpretation, especially since a coincident sample of the birds remaining in the rapidly dwindling local winter roosts still shows in March the surplus of males of the wintering population (table 1, March). Of course it is possible that this preponderance of females in the spring roosts may be accounted for by a differential migration period, or by an early desertion of the common roosts by male birds in favor of their newly established nesting territories. Proper interpretation of such statistics awaits further observation and study.—J. T. EMLÉN, JR., Division of Zoology, University of California, Davis, California.

The Bird-Banding Stations in 1934-1935.—The correction in the total number of birds banded during the year ending July 1, 1934, (*Bird Banding Notes*, 2:194) makes a rather important change in the figures presented in my article (*Bird-Banding* 6:26). Since the decrease in the total must be subtracted from those stations which banded less than one hundred birds during the year, that figure should have been 43,029, instead of 131,917, or 16 per cent of the total instead of 36 per cent. (The further corrections in the numbers for several individuals would reduce this to 29,376, or 10.7 per cent, but perhaps this should not be applied.) A similar tabulation for the year ending July 1, 1935, seems to show that the decrease in the total from the year before also has come from this remainder. My calculation shows just 104 fewer birds banded by 295 stations than by the 297 of the year before. This leaves only 17,945 to be accounted for by the smaller stations, or 7 per cent of the total. The standing of the various States has varied somewhat. Massachusetts, California and Pennsylvania show large gains, most of the other leading ones considerable losses. Alabama, Nebraska, Vermont, Washington, and Wyoming appear in the list; Colorado, Mississippi, Montana, and Rhode Island drop out. Among the States with the smaller numbers Indiana shows the most notable increase, with a little over twice as many stations and also total birds.—O. A. STEVENS, Fargo, North Dakota.

Notes on the Intelligence of the House Sparrow (*Passer d. domesticus*).—Supplementing the note by Mr. Venables in *Bird-Banding* of January, 1936, on the "Apparent Intelligence of the Sparrow and Starling at the Trap," I wish to record the following:

Of all the species of birds entering my traps this Sparrow most quickly learns to find its way out of our common funnel traps. I have watched some adults come to a baited trap for weeks. At first they carefully take all food from under the funnel entrance, frequently backing out and then gradually entering a little deeper until they slip in and out of the neck of the funnel. After a few days they are so well acquainted with the plan of the trap that they quickly run to the funnel exit opening from any part and will escape, even moving towards a person approaching. When young Sparrows follow adults to feed, or if a strange Sparrow comes with them, they are more easily confused and caught.

A House Sparrow in close quarters in a trap or cage will methodically examine all openings and chances of possible escape while other species of birds will continue to bunt their heads. Often when one is taken from the gathering cage it will face about and watch closely for a chance to slip past the hand. An astonishing thing, however, is to see one diving into and swimming under water in its efforts to escape. My first six-cell water trap, made in 1931, is still in use, where this phenomenon is repeated every summer. This trap, made of hardware cloth, is circular, thirty inches in diameter and eight inches high. It is divided by vertical walls into six triangular compartments with apices meeting in the center. A water-pan seventeen inches in diameter and three and a half inches deep is so attached to the bottom of the trap that each cell has an equal segment of the water-surface. When the pan is full of water, the dividing walls extend three-quarters of an inch below the surface, and, to prevent birds from becoming submerged, a circular piece of hardware cloth (about 13 or 14 inches in diameter) is laced to the lower edges, thus making a sort of under water floor.

In this particular trap the floor is rather scant, and a considerable space (one and a half inches) around the rim of the pan has no floor. It is into this deep-water space that the Sparrow will dive and swim twelve to fourteen inches under water across the pan, to come up in another compartment. When five or six compartments have each captured a Sparrow, sometimes two, or even three, will be found in one cell, and when the trap is approached by visitors, the birds usually promptly dive and swim back again. While all Sparrows do not "take to water," I have seen both young and adults do it. So far no other species of small birds has attempted it.—J. F. BRENCLE, M.D., Northville, South Dakota.

Weekly Visits With the Black Tern in Wisconsin.—My usual procedure of Black Tern (*Chlidonias nigra surinamensis*) banding is to row a boat from one nest to the next and hunt the young that are hiding in the rushes near by. We know as we approach a nest, that a single alarm signal from the parent birds will induce the little ones to leave the nest and hide, and that they are usually very well hidden before one arrives at the nest. A continuous danger signal is given by the adult birds flying overhead while one remains in the vicinity, which increases and becomes a more rapid *kip-kip-kip* call, occasionally intermingled with a screech. The interpretation of the different calls employed by these birds, varying from very soft to loud, harsh or screechy, depending upon whether there are eggs, young, or immature flying birds, can only be acquired by careful study and observance of many individual families. The calls given by the adults are important in locating the young more readily. A call seldom heard is that of the mother bird, a soft, low cooing, calling her little ones out of hiding back to the nest, and assuring them of their safety.

In 1933 and 1934 a number of nests were marked with metal tags and a record of each was carefully kept. Many nests in the immediate vicinity were also carefully observed, and by following a marked route we avoided much useless rowing and saved the birds much disturbance. An experiment was carried out by the use of artificial eggs to determine the tenacity of the brooding parent in remaining to brood these eggs after her own were hatched. Artificial eggs were placed in fifteen nests. These eggs were turned out of hard maple wood and painted to represent a natural tern egg, for which service I am indebted to Mr. Clarence S. Jung, of Milwaukee, who kindly gave his time and the use of his machinery in their making. In some of the nests one artificial egg was placed, in others two, and the resulting behavior of the adults over a period of three weeks proved to be very interesting. It conclusively proved that you cannot fool a Black Tern into attempting to hatch wooden eggs. In the majority of nests the artificial eggs were pushed out, and usually lay about six inches away. Once a week the wooden eggs were replaced, but to no avail as each new visit found them out of the nest. Nest No. 11, which had two artificial eggs besides three of its own, was built higher than the average nest and large enough to accommodate the five eggs. This nest was basket-like, resembling that of a Gallinule or Coot, but, of course, much smaller. One of the