

♀ banded as adult August 23, 1936. Returned July 12, 1939; July 11, 1940; May 3, 1942.

♀ banded as immature July 27, 1938. Returned June 11, 1940; May 4, 1942.

—ADA CLAPHAM GOVAN, Woodland Bird Sanctuary, Lexington, Mass.

Trapping Spotted Sandpipers and Baltimore Orioles with Unusual Bait.—At my banding station, established in 1921 at Lily Pond, Cohasset, I have trapped and banded in one year as many as 27 species, one of which is the Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularia*). I had on my lawn, some distance from the house, a large, pull-string trap for taking robins. In this trap I placed a quantity of "sun-kissed" raisins, which was successful bait for them. After most of the birds had been trapped and banded, I still continued the raisins, which in the warm weather, and after rains, became decayed; and then came many fruit flies that like decaying fruit. The Spotted Sandpipers nest around the pond, and have a habit of coming on the lawn for insects in the grass, and, as they neared the trap, they spied the flies and went directly in after them. In that way, the birds were taken;—inadvertently by the raisins used as bait for the robins.

For years the Baltimore Orioles (*Icterus galbula*) have nested in my elms. One of three nests was located on the hanging branches of an elm, about eighteen feet from the ground, directly over the traps. In experimenting with various kinds of bait for insectivorous birds, I discovered that bread crumbs in the trap, with larger pieces on top would attract them. In placing this bait in and on the trap under the orioles' nest, I was successful in having the female oriole enter, and instead of taking the bird immediately, I thought I would see if she would be good bait for her mate. It was not long before the male joined the female in the trap.—LAURENCE B. FLETCHER, Lily Pond, Cohasset, Mass.

Shipping Specimens for Diagnosis.—It is very difficult to make general recommendations for the preservation and shipping of specimens for diagnosis because this depends on distance, transportation facilities, season and the nature of the disease in the specimen.

Fortunately the area from which our specimens come is small so that packages usually arrive the day after mailing and the specimens are fairly well preserved. Nevertheless, we do receive decomposed specimens but this is often due to delays in transit over the week end. In other cases the specimen was dead and probably quite decomposed when it was found. Decomposition due to delays in shipments on week ends and holidays may be partly avoided by holding the specimen under refrigeration over the week end or holiday. Obviously, nothing can be done to restore a specimen already decomposed at the time of finding.

The use of dry ice to preserve specimens is rather expensive and should not be used whenever the diagnosis must depend upon a microscopic examination of a blood smear. Frozen blood becomes hemolyzed so that malarial infections, for example, cannot be diagnosed.

Packing the specimen in powdered borax has been suggested, and in our limited experience has seemed to give satisfactory results regardless of the disease present.

Some diseases can be diagnosed however decomposed the specimen. The diagnosis of tuberculosis, for example is, made by a microscopic examination of a stained slide made from the lesion. The presence of other bacteria are of no consequence because the tubercle bacillus can be easily identified by its staining properties. Parasites are usually well preserved even in specimens showing advanced decomposition.

The diagnosis of a virus disease in a decomposed specimen is not impossible for the reason that most viruses have to be filtered in any event. On the other hand, pox scabs may be suspended and inoculated without filtration. Decomposition may, however, obliterate changes which would otherwise suggest a virus disease, and hence, prompt a search for it.