

A similar experience was had with an American Kestrel (*Falco s. sparverius* Linn.). Five miles from my home I discovered an adult female incubating 5 eggs (April 25, 1943). Again having no bands with me, I decided to risk transportation, so wrapped her in my handkerchief and headed home. There she was banded (41-331509), again rolled in the handkerchief, and carried back to the nesting stub. As I climbed to replace her on the eggs, the male came in with a mouse in his talons, and was only a few feet away when he saw me. He swerved and flew off, still bearing the mouse. I very gently replaced the female and cautiously climbed down, retiring to a safe distance where I could watch what happened.

The female remained in the nest-cavity, and soon her mate was back with the mouse. His soft chattering brought her out immediately, she took the food from him and flew to a nearby tree. There she scolded for some minutes before eating, but eventually consumed the whole mouse. Then she very thoroughly went over her whole body, rearranging each feather that had been displaced during her trip. Finally she reentered the nest hole, and I departed.

I checked these little falcons as they were hatching, and when I thought of them again, they had grown up and flown, leaving ample evidence of a successful upbringing. One egg failed to hatch. Again, what to the parent must have been a rather frightening experience was forgotten in the more pressing duties of parenthood.—ROBERT M. STABLER, Department of Zoology, University of Pennsylvania.

**Size 1B Bands Found Preferable.**—The relatively new 1B bands were developed, I understand, to be used on Chimney Swifts (*Chaetura pelagica* (Linn.)). I have had occasion to use these bands on only two species of birds to date, but, in both instances, they have proved to be much more satisfactory than the too large 1A size. The Eastern Song Sparrow (*Melospiza m. melodia* Wils.) and the White-throated Sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis* (Gmel.)) are the two species for which I have found the 1B bands to be preferable.—G. HARGOOD PARKS, 99 Warrenton Ave., Hartford, Connecticut.

**Unusual Behavior of Hairy Woodpecker.**—The following behavior by a female Eastern Hairy Woodpecker (*Dryobates v. villosus* (Linn.)) was noted last spring after I had discovered the nest, on June 30, in the hollow trunk of a small apple tree in Millbridge, Maine.

The nest-opening was about shoulder high. From it came noises which indicated that the nestlings were well developed. Shortly after the discovery had been made the male parent entered the nest. He was captured, as he left, by means of a light landing net. He was banded and released. When the female entered the nest, several minutes later, I again covered the opening with the net, following the same procedure which had just taken her mate, as well as a whole family of Flickers (*Colaptes auratus luteus* Bangs) earlier that same morning. But she was not so readily captured. Instead of flying out into the net as the other birds had done, she merely perched in the nest-hole. Stretching to her limit she inspected the twine which constituted the mesh, frequently taking it in her bill and moving it as if to brush it aside. She also explored the wire frame of the net and attempted to force her bill and head between it and the trunk of the tree. After more than an hour of this behavior my available time gave out, so I approached the tree and tried to hasten her exit by tapping and slapping on the tree trunk. She only retreated into the nest. Finally she won out. I departed and took my net with me.

Next day, from hiding, I saw her again enter the nest. The net was placed over the entrance and I returned to my hiding-place to watch. The bird's bill, and then her head, pushed cautiously out of the hole and into the space enclosed by the mesh of the net. Then, just as slowly, she disappeared again inside the tree

trunk. The sound of hammering reached my ears. Spells of hammering were interrupted frequently, but only long enough for the bird's head to appear through the nest-hole as she inspected the net. For almost two hours the bird kept up this behavior while I watched. Then I went to the tree as quietly as possible from such a direction as to be completely hidden from the opening. There I waited until there was a pause in the hammering and the scratching sounds told me that she had climbed to her perch of inspection at the hole. I struck the trunk a resounding blow with a piece of barrel stave. There was a brief scratching inside, and the hammering began again.

A tactual survey of the tree trunk with my finger tips revealed that the bird was drilling a hole on the opposite side of the tree from the original nest-opening, a back door, so to speak. How could such a woodpecker be captured? As I went away the drum-beat of her carpentry continued as long as I was within ear-shot.

Next day I passed by that tree again. The nest was deserted. The back door had not been completed.—G. HARGOOD PARKS, 99 Warrenton Ave., Hartford, Connecticut.

**Report on a sick Northern White-breasted Nuthatch** (*Sitta carolinensis carolinensis* Lath.) Adult ♀ No. 138-14509, banded December 11, 1938 at Laceyville, Pennsylvania. Trapped in a Potter single cell trap on a window feeding shelf. Was retaken in the following manner—on January 20, 1939, I noticed a feathery ball clinging to the trunk of a large maple tree, about four feet above the ground, and on examining more closely realized it was a nuthatch. I easily picked the little bird off the tree trunk, and noticed the band which, upon checking my records, revealed the banding data given above. The nuthatch was put in a gathering cage, and kept warm in the kitchen. The little visitor shivered with chills, and showed considerable weakness. It tried to eat some peanuts, but became weaker and died in the evening.

The nuthatch was immediately sent to Dr. C. Brooke Worth, who was then at Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, Pa. I received a letter from Dr. Worth dated January 28, 1939, which contained interesting data, and quote here parts from his letter: "Allow me to express my gratitude to you for submitting the nuthatch. Due to the pressure of the new semester I was unable to work on it until 24 hours after receiving it, so that decomposition had advanced rather farther than desirable. However, I was able to observe the following pathologic changes: Plumage, skeleton, and muscular development normal. Subcutaneous fat deficient. One lung markedly congested. Stomach contained gravel but no food. Intestines showed profound hemorrhages throughout. Microscopical examination of intestinal blood disclosed many small cysts. Liver grossly normal. Pancreas, spleen, and gonads liquefied (decomposed). Kidney normal."

On the basis of the observations I believe that the bird had a hemorrhagic enteritis caused by some sort of amoeba, and that the immediate cause of death was a terminal pneumonitis consequent upon malnutrition and lowered resistance."—CHARLES C. VANDERVORT, Laceyville, Pennsylvania.

**A Migratory White-Breasted Nuthatch.**—The White-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta carolinensis carolinensis* Lath.) is generally considered a permanent resident, although it is said to make some migration during the winter from its extreme northerly range to a more southerly region.

E. H. Forbush writes, in his "Birds of Massachusetts and Other New England States," "They often appear in winter where they never breed," while Thomas S. Roberts states, in his "Birds of Minnesota," 1936, under General Range, "The White-breasted Nuthatch is resident where found." F. C. Lincoln, in his book on migration, 1939, makes the statement that in the coastal plane between Washington, D. C., and the ocean, the White-breasted Nuthatch is usually absent during the summer, retiring to the higher Piedmont country to breed, and late in the fall it appears in the wooded lowlands, where it remains until the following