

under conditions of poor illumination, a headlight is a useful item of equipment. As Miller points out, the operation involving the cut takes less than two minutes for one who is in practice. For one who is skilled in the modified method, hardly more than a minute is required.

In some passerines, to be sure, birds in first-winter plumage can be distinguished from older ones by plumage characters, but in our present state of knowledge we can do this with relatively few species. Consequently a simple method of aging live birds on the basis of the skull condition may be of use to banders who wish to obtain more than minimal data from the birds they handle.

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[In early November, 1960, I sent a carbon copy of the preceding paragraphs to Dr. James Baird who was conducting bird-banding studies on Block Island, Rhode Island. Baird wrote (letter, November 16) that he "immediately tried out the method and was eminently successful," having difficulty with only one bird, a Fox Sparrow (*Passerella iliaca*), although he was able to age two other Fox Sparrows. He pointed out that the procedure might further be simplified, thus: "I do have a suggestion resulting from my experimenting with the . . . method: to wit, it is not necessary to clip or pluck feathers. I simply wet my finger with saliva . . . part the feathers along the crown (off center), and then rewet it to moisten the skin. The wetting of the feathers makes them discrete and easily pushed aside. If an odd feather gets in the way it is easy to pluck out the single offender." Baird added that this might appeal to some banders "who would shudder at the thought of plucking a bird bald-headed." He also felt that I should "append a suggestion that novices might do well either to receive instruction or else skin an immature bird to get some idea of what they are looking for." These recommendations and suggestions for improvement by Baird are most welcome and should be taken into account by anyone planning to use this method of aging live passerine birds.] —Robert A. Norris, University of Georgia Ecological Studies, AEC Savannah River Plant area, Aiken, South Carolina. Present address: 427 Eureka Street, San Francisco 14, California.

Some Starlings Resident in Connecticut.—The last issue included a plea (Comments on the migration of Starlings in eastern United States, David E. Davis, *Bird-Banding*, 31: 216-219) for the banding of resident Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*). At my backyard station in West Hartford, Conn., I have banded Starlings rather than disposing of them, but only in small numbers incidental to other banding. From May, 1952, through 1959, 223 were banded.

While four fledglings were banded in a nest box, and a few individuals were taken in mist nets, most were taken in Potter-type automatic door traps on raised shelves. Some, taken from April through early August, were attracted by sunflower seeds, incidental to the banding of Blue Jays and Common Grackles.

Table 1 — Returns

Band Number	Age and Sex	Date Banded	Date of Return
48-216561	—	31/5/52	13/6/53
563	—	15/6/52	5/7/53
565	—	21/6/52	5/7/53
570	A	29/6/52	12/7/53
571	I	29/7/52	11/7/53
597	—	18/1/53	7/6/53
502-42790	A ♂	15/12/56	9/7/58
807	—	14/5/53	26/3/55
809	—	16/5/53	29/11/53
			23/1/55
			4/5/57
810	—	21/5/53	22/11/53
			10/12/57
824	I	6/6/53	2/6/56
825	A	6/6/53	15/12/56
832	A	15/6/53	29/11/53

Table 2 — Recoveries

Band Number and Sex	Age	Date Banded	Date Recovered	Place Recovered
502-42727	♂	17/12/55	5/6/57	Bloomfield, 4.5 miles ENE
732	—	17/12/55	ca. 13/9/60	Bloomfield, 3.5 miles NE
817	A	31/5/53	8/1/54	W. Hartford, .8 miles NNW
830	A	13/6/53	ca. 24/3/54	W. Hartford, 2 miles SSE
831	A	15/6/53	31/10/54	Hartford, 3.6 miles SE
869	fl.	16/5/54	ca. 18/5/57	New Britain, ca. 7 miles S
512-51366	A ♂	17/3/57	27/5/58	W. Hartford, .2 miles E

Others, taken from November through early spring, were attracted partly by a peanut-butter mixture. Almost none were trapped from mid-August through October, as the birds tend to feed more on fruit than at other seasons, and my traps are not being operated as actively.

From this group of 223, 13 individuals have returned to the station at least once (Table 1). All dates in the tables are in the international order (day, month, year). While some of these birds returned at about the time of year first trapped, some winter birds returned in the summer, and vice versa.

Another 7 Starlings have been recovered away from the station, at distances from .2 mile to about 7 miles. (Only 3 out of the 20 returns and recoveries were in the group studied by Davis). Again they show interchange of winter and summer birds. While the number of recoveries is too small to be more than suggestive, all of them are essentially suburban. None are from downtown Hartford, where many thousands roost on winter nights, and none from the countryside beyond the outer suburbs.

It appears that the Starlings taken at my station are strongly resident, winter and summer. We are only about 7 miles west of the roosting area in downtown Hartford, and about the same distance SSE of a sizeable roost in white pines in Simsbury. In late afternoon, in at least the colder months, flocks moving to a roost can be seen from the station. From the size of the winter roosts, my guess is that they include more than the permanent residents. Why our extensive bird feeders are not visited by more of these winter residents is uncertain.—E. Alexander Bergstrom, 37 Old Brook Road, West Hartford 17, Conn.

Land Birds Observed At Sea.—The following birds were observed from the deck of the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey ship *Hydrographer*, in an area 5 miles sq., 16 miles N.E. of Cape Cod Light, N. Truro, Mass., centered at Lat. 42° 13.4' N.; Long. 69° 48' W., during October, 1959:

1. Yellow breasted chat—1, Oct. 2; 1, Oct. 3; 1, Oct. 4; 1, Oct. 5
2. Winter Wren—1, Oct. 2
3. Seaside Sparrow—1, Oct. 2; 1, Oct. 3; 1, Oct. 4; 1, Oct. 5
4. Junco, slate-col.—5, Oct. 2; 6, Oct. 3; 6, Oct. 4; 7, Oct. 5; 1, Oct. 6; 2, Oct. 7 (at least 5 died)
5. Blackbird, Rusty—1, Oct. 2
6. Brown Thrasher—1, Oct. 5
7. Lincoln Sparrow—1, Oct. 5
8. Song Sparrow—2, Oct. 5; 1, Oct. 9
9. White Throated Sparrow—5, Oct. 5; 1, Oct. 6; 1, Oct. 7
- *10. Cedar Waxwing—4, Oct. 5
- *11. Myrtle Warbler—5 Oct. 5; 1, Oct. 6
12. Redstart (female)—1, Oct. 5
13. Magnolia Warbler—3, Oct. 5; 2, Oct. 6
- *14. Golden crowned kinglet—1, Oct. 5
- *15. Brown Creeper—1, Oct. 5
16. Osprey—1, Oct. 5; 1, Oct. 9 (several in air at night, Oct. 5—Oct. 9)
17. Baltimore Oriole (female)—1, Oct. 6
18. Dove, Mourning—1, Oct. 8; 1, Oct. 9
19. Duck Hawk—(imm.)—1, Oct. 9

* Died on board, frozen and returned to Univ. Conn., Dept. Zool. and Ent. Collection