

In three trips on dark nights to marshes in the Denver area, the catch totaled approximately 1,200 birds. On a fourth trip, during the new moon, 6 men with 2 nets easily captured 600 birds in 3 hours. The ratio of redwings to starlings in these catches was approximately 2:1. The nets used had a hoop 2½ to 3 feet in diameter, with a bag of ½-inch mesh 4 to 6 feet long. The handles of the nets telescoped and when extended were 10 to 20 feet long. The hoops were constructed of ½-inch aluminum tubing (.049-inch wall thickness), with the handles being made of heavier tubing, 1¼ inches in diameter. The materials for each net cost approximately \$15.

The birds will become badly entangled if the netting is too light, so it is desirable to use heavy cord material. Also, the bag must be long enough so that it can be closed by a flip of the netter's wrist, and thus prevent loss of birds.

In the operations, carrying cages capable of holding 100 birds were constructed. The doors of the cages were covered with overlapping pieces of rubber inner tube so that the operator could thrust his hand into the cage to release the bird without danger of its escaping. Birds were either banded and released, or taken to the aviary within six hours. Mortality was less than one percent.

Further experience may indicate that modifications of the technique are desirable, but the procedure is described at this time in the belief that, even in its present stage of development, it may be useful to individuals in similar ecological areas who wish to capture large numbers of blackbirds and starlings for banding or for experimental purposes.—Albert W. Spencer and John W. De Grazio, Wildlife Research Center, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, U. S. Department of Interior, Denver 25, Colo.

Winglength of Yellow-breasted Chat.—It is now well established that *Icteria virens* has a complete postjuvinal molt. The wing lengths measured at Hillsboro, N. C. give an interesting confirmation of this. Below are the extreme lengths with means in parentheses measured as wing chords.

7 Juveniles	66-(68.1)-70
29 Males	72-(75.9)-81
22 Females	71-(74.7)-78

The adults were measured between the beginning of May and mid July when Dennis' criterion of black mouths in males and partly pink mouths in females was used for sexing.—Charles H. Blake, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cambridge, Mass.

Land Birds at Sea following a SE Storm.—*Location:* On board U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey Ship "Explorer"; Lat. 40°45'N, Long. 70°52.7'W, or about 36 miles South of Gay Head, Martha's Vineyard. See C. & G.S. Charts 71 and 1108.

During the period 15-17 April, 1961, strong S.E. winds, up to 60 knots, lashed the Northeast seaboard. I was fortunate to be at the above location following this storm from 18-24 April, 1961, and observed the following land birds on board ship:

- 18 April. 1 Brown Creeper; very tired, just dropped on deck.
- 19 April. 2 Song Sparrows, 1 Slate-colored Junco.
- 20 April. 1 Song Sparrow; observed picking up hailstones. Source of water?
- 21 April. 2 Song Sparrows; 1 Starling.
- 22 April. 2 Palm Warblers, 4 White-throated Sparrows, 2 Juncos, 1 Red-shafted Flicker, 1 Song Sparrow, 1 Brown Thrasher, 1 Rufous-sided Towhee.
- 23 April. 1 Chipping Sparrow, 1 Song Sparrow, 7 White-throated Sparrows, 2 Juncos, 1 Towhee, 1 Flicker, 1 Brown Thrasher, 2 Common Grackles.

Most of these stayed aboard until we anchored one mile off Menemsha Bight, 24 April. Even then, most of the White-throated Sparrows refused to fly to shore and were still on board when I left 25 April.

During this period, strong winds, up to 40 knots, from the NW and SW, snow, hail and rain, were experienced.