

A TAME BROWN THRASHER.

In the hope that some bird lover who has lost a tame brown thrasher may read this item and so learn something of the later life of his pet, I contribute this record of a rather unusual experiences with birds.

It was in the latter half of June that the brown thrasher first appeared at our home near Rantoul, Illinois. My mother and sister were at work on the back porch when the bird alighted on the ground. It's apparent tameness attracted their attention, and when it flew to a nearby fence-post my sister went out to it. When she approached, the bird flew to her shoulder, where it stayed contentedly for at least three minutes.

For two days it stayed about the place, not in the least afraid, in no wise concerned about household activities carried on about it. It allowed the various members of the family to pet it, while it perched upon an arm or shoulder; it ate cherries that my brother fed it, while he held it in his hand; and it showed not the least objection to having its picture taken. The second day it disappeared and we saw it no more.

We have cast about for an explanation of its unusual conduct, and can find none better than that it was a tamed bird that had strayed from its home. Our farm is a haven of refuge for all birds, so that many nest about the house, and it may be that this bird was one of the several pairs that nested near, and that had become so fearless and unafraid that it seemed tame. But if this were so the bird would hardly have appeared and left so suddenly. The more plausible and reasonable explanation would seem to be that it was a tamed bird that had wandered away from its home, and I am waiting to hear from some one who has lost his pet.

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TREE SPARROW AT NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE.

I wish to place on record the first occurrence of the Tree Sparrow (*Spizella m. monticola*) here. Diligent and consistent search throughout the past four winters, by myself and others, has failed to record the presence of this species. To the abnormal and prolonged cold of the past winter is no doubt due its presence south of its usual habitat. For a month following Christmas, 1917, with the exception of a few hours, the weather remained considerably below freezing, going as low as 13 degrees below zero, with deep snow constantly on the ground.