

**The Matings of the Brown Thrasher.**—I have just re-read E. A. Andrews' "Birds' Nests at Home" in the *Auk* for April, 1925, and have found it just as interesting as when I first read it. I believe his experiences might have been even more interesting had he banded pairs of birds to report on, to know what percentage of his nests from year to year were built by one or both adults of previous clutches or of previous years.

I have followed around several pairs of Brown Thrashers in Riverside Park at Indianapolis, the activities of which may be of interest. On July 13, 1925, I found the nest of a pair of Brown Thrashers with one fledgling therein, close to the bank of the lagoon in the park, in a vine-covered bush about five feet up. I banded the youngster, placed it under a drop trap near the nest, and, with several friends, sat on a slight elevation fifty feet away while one after the other the parent birds went to feed the fledgling and were trapped. The fledgling was given government band No. 357001, the parents, Nos. 357021 and 357022.

In 1926, on the 13th day of May, I found another thrasher nest one hundred feet or so south of the 1925 nest, a little closer to the water, about three feet up in a vine clump. Four fledglings were banded here (Nos. 357921-925-926-927). One of the adults when trapped was found to be No. 357022. The mate was a new bird, then given band No. 357932. This banding party took place May 19th.

While I had several other nests of thrashers in the neighborhood, it was not until July 14 that I found one of the adults of this family again. On an island in the lagoon, not more than 300 feet away from either of the previous nests, two half-grown fledglings were looking over the edge of this nest, which was placed in the center of a large bush. When the parents were trapped No. 357932 was found to have abandoned her mate of May 19, and was then mated to a new bird, that day banded No. 467866. Four days later No. 357022 was found brooding a single fledgling at a nest built in a small sapling around which a vine was climbing, 500 feet south of the May 19 nest. I was unable to trap the mate of this bird but it was an unbanded one. The fledgling was given No. 339259.

So we have here a case of a pair of birds changing mates two months after they had raised a brood together, under conditions which proved that it was not the seeking of a new mate after the death of the previous one.

We have had four other pairs of Brown Thrashers in the same area under observation, where only one of each pair was a banded bird.

The inference seems irresistible that after each brood is raised there is a complete shuffling of mates among the Brown Thrashers.—SAMUEL ELLIOTT PERKINS III, *Indianapolis, Ind.*