

the owner, taking her turn at stealing the materials of the nest. Thus the foundations of a hanging nest were soon visible about ten feet higher up in the tree, the length of white string connecting the two nests. Strangely enough her depredations seemed to pass unnoticed, and after two or three days both nests were completed and the home life of the kingbirds and the orioles proceeded peacefully.—A. D. WHEDON, *Fargo, N. D.*

**A Hand-reared Arkansas Kingbird.**—Returning from work one evening about the middle of July, I found twelve-year-old Charles busily engaged in catching grasshoppers and feeding them to a pair of baby Arkansas Kingbirds. He and his pal had found the birds that afternoon, apparently dislodged from their nest by the high wind of the night before. I feared that the birds would die, but could suggest no better plan. One of them did indeed die within a day or two, but through no fault of the boys. A striped ground squirrel seized and killed it while the boys were hunting grasshoppers only a few yards away. A few days later Charles avenged the bird by killing the squirrel.

The remaining bird thrived on its diet of grasshoppers until about a week later when we took it with us on a trip to the lake. The weather was rainy and insects were hard to find. We supplemented what few we could catch with bits of bread and meat. Some of the meat was highly seasoned and apparently was not suitable because the next day, "Pete", as the boy had called the bird, was quite droopy. The sun came out in the afternoon when we were able to find plenty of grasshoppers and Pete quickly "perked up".

At about this time he began to learn that he had wings and soon could make short flights from one's hand to a convenient garage roof or to the ground. Charles commented that Pete was more fun than a model airplane: "you did not have to wind him up". The next step was for the bird to fly from his perch to one's hat, shoulder or outstretched finger when a tempting grasshopper was offered.

We soon learned Pete's language. A certain lusty sound accompanied by a suggestively open mouth meant that he was hungry. Another short and fainter sound, "*pip-pip-pip*", when offered the fourth or fifth grasshopper in rapid succession, meant that he was not interested in food for the time being. Still another chirp indicated indifference or mild curiosity.

The accompanying picture was taken about the first of August. At this time Pete still depended entirely on our ministrations for his food. In another two weeks he had become self-supporting, but still welcomed an occasional grasshopper from our hands. On August 2 he was officially decorated with a Biological Survey leg-band, No. 38-127463.

Each night Pete was taken to the basement where he perched on one of the electric light wires running through the floor joists. Here he would remain contentedly until about six o'clock in the morning when he would begin to call for breakfast. He would accept food from others but was more familiar with members of our family. Without detailed records of the food, especially of weights of the grasshoppers, it would be hard to estimate the amount eaten per day, though the number probably ran as high as seventy-five.

On the evening of August 12 we were not at home until after Pete's bedtime and he was not to be found. Neighbors reported that he had appeared at the usual time and made considerable disturbance, clamoring to be put to bed. The next morning as I started for the office, I heard a familiar chirp and from a tall

tree across the street Pete came in a bee-line for my hat. There could be no doubt that he was glad to see me.

From that time on, he became more independent. He would disappear immediately in the morning. Sometimes we saw him during the day, sometimes not. Some days he returned to be put to bed; other days he remained out. After the morning of August 22 we saw him no more. The other Arkansas Kingbirds disappeared at about the same date, so Pete probably went south with them. We hope that he may return next spring with a mate and nest in our vicinity.—A. J. PINCKNEY, *Fargo, N. D.*

**Western Henslow's Sparrow Taken in Virginia.**—While engaged in field work in the West Virginia mountains in June, 1935, Maurice Brooks informed the writer that there was at that time no authentic record of Henslow's Sparrows for the State, either as a migrant or as a breeding bird. This species had been recorded as a breeding bird in forty-six of the eighty-eight counties of Ohio (Hicks, "Breeding Birds of Ohio", 1935). It is known to breed sparingly in ten of the twenty-two unglaciated counties of southeastern Ohio in territory similar to large areas of West Virginia. Several sizeable breeding colonies were then known for Ohio that were within twenty miles of West Virginia. Hence it seemed certain that the species crossed into and probably nested in, West Virginia.

Accordingly, several week-end trips were made through the Ohio River counties of western West Virginia between Huntington and Parkersburg. Few habitats of types attractive to Henslow's Sparrow were found, and these few were unoccupied, except one. On July 7, 1935, the writer discovered a small breeding colony in a narrow weedy strip of bottomland near the Kanawha River, and about six miles above Point Pleasant, Mason County, West Virginia.

Two males were singing on either side of a highway. No nests could be found but several females and a juvenal were flushed. The latter was barely capable of sustained flight but eluded capture. An adult male, however, was found dead along the roadside, possibly having been struck by an automobile. This bird weighed 13.2 grams and was in breeding condition (testes 5.5 mm. x 9.0 mm.). The skin was somewhat decomposed but was prepared, and has been donated to the collection of the West Virginia University at Morgantown. It represents, so far as known, the first record and the first breeding record of Henslow's Sparrow in West Virginia. Dr. H. C. Oberholser, of the Biological Survey, determined the specimen as typical of the western race (*Passerherbulus h. henslowi*). All Ohio specimens examined to date have also been assigned to this form.

The eastern race (*Passerherbulus h. susurrans*) has since been recorded in eastern West Virginia as follows: A migrant taken October 9, 1935, near Mason-town, Preston County, by Haller, Handlan, Margolin, and Brooks (*Auk*, LIII, 1936, p. 91); breeding adults with young seen near Burlington, Mineral County, July 19, 1936, by Brooks and Haller (*Auk*, LIII, 1936, p. 453); adults seen by Maurice Brooks on July 7, 1937, near Stony River Dam, Grant County (*Redstart*, IV, 1937, pp. 68-69).—LAWRENCE E. HICKS, *Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio.*