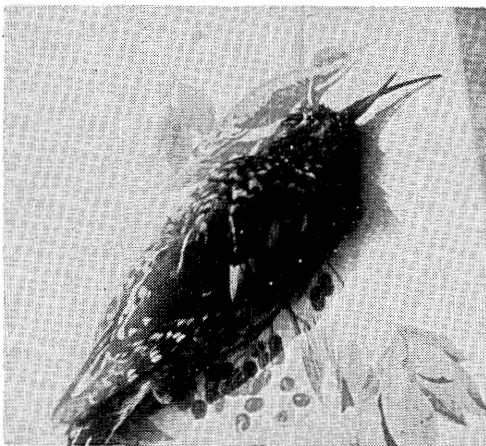
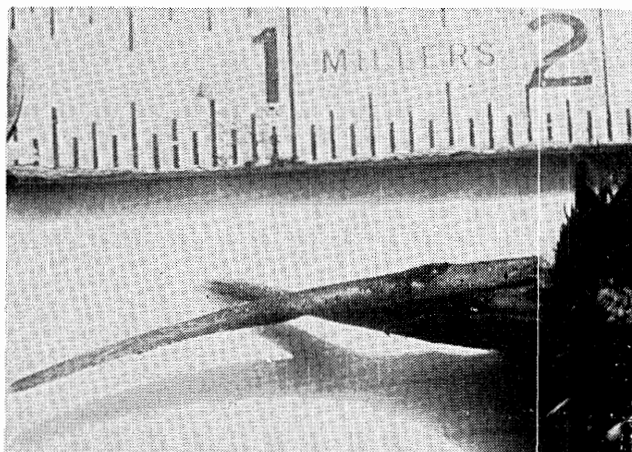


FIELD NOTES



*Photographs
by
Sheldon Merritt*

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker with Abnormal Bill. The accompanying photographs show an immature plumaged Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus varius*) with a malformed bill. It was found dead on October 6, 1964, in Belmont, Allegany County, N.Y. by Mrs. Katherine Palmer. She gave it to Mr. Lou Burton who preserved it for photographing by Mr. Sheldon Merritt, President of the Buffalo Audubon Society. Unfortunately the specimen was too badly decayed for preparation into a permanent study skin.

Richard C. Rosche, New Jersey Audubon Society, Hardscrabble Road, Bernardsville, N.J. 07924.

Ed. Note: In the 1940's a sapsucker with a similar deformity was found in Ithaca. It had or could use only one leg and climbed around the branches pecking insects off leaves, as it could not drill for sap. Our supposition was that after the leg injury the bird could not hang on the trunk to feed, and with a lack of normal wear, the mandible became overgrown.