

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY
Washington, D. C.

B I R D B A N D I N G N O T E S

No. 12.

August 19, 1924.

GENERAL INFORMATION TO COOPERATORS.

Miscellaneous Circular No. 18, "Instructions for Banding Birds."-- Department Circular No. 170 is superseded by this more up-to-date pamphlet of instructions. A copy should have been received by every cooperator, but if yours has not arrived a second copy will be sent on request. The additional information contained in the new publication is based largely upon experience gained during the past four years. It should be examined carefully by all cooperators, and particular attention should be given to the section under "Reports" (pp. 22-26). The approved method of filling out record cards and semi-annual reports of repeats and returns is shown in figures 27 and 28. It is not necessary to give the scientific name of the banded bird, but its full vernacular name is important. The Biological Survey will appreciate it if cooperators will closely follow these models. There is on hand a small quantity of the schedules that were formerly used for reporting all banding records. These will be issued to cooperators on request if they are desired for use in submitting semi-annual reports, but when the present stock is exhausted it is not planned to print more.

Grackles.--The attention of cooperators is directed to the known distribution of the purple and bronzed grackles (Quiscalus g. quiscula and Q. g. aeneus). The purple grackle occupies the central Atlantic coast region of the United States, breeding from the north shore of Long Island Sound and the lower Hudson Valley, south to Georgia, Alabama, and eastern Tennessee. It winters in this region south of the Delaware Valley, and is not known to occur west of the Allegheny Mountains. The bronzed grackle is the species occurring in the New England States and the entire area covered by the Inland Association (except the coast region of the Gulf States). This peculiar distribution is evidently causing some confusion to station operators.

NOTE:- "Bird Banding Notes" is not a publication and is not for general distribution. It is issued for the information of cooperators of the Biological Survey, but anyone using in a published paper any of the information contained in it will be expected to give full credit to the person named and to the Bureau.

Fledglings.--The Biological Survey has taken the position that the banding of nestling birds is less important than the operation of trapping stations. The definite reasons for this may well be brought to the attention of cooperators. In the first place the mortality among young birds is very high, possibly 50 per cent or more of those that are hatched. It will thus be obvious that if the files contained nothing but the records of banded fledglings, more than half might be useless, but would still have to be retained. This would also imply a corresponding waste of bands, which represent a money value. On the other hand, it is important to band the young of those species which can be readily trapped as adults. But even so, it is questionable whether cooperators should extend their search for young birds beyond the immediate vicinity of their trapping stations, where it is assumed that bird enemies are kept under control. (Colony breeding birds are, of course, an exception to this rule.)

That predatory animals will follow a human trail, apparently out of curiosity, collectors of birds' eggs have learned to their cost, and there is other evidence at hand. The Biological Survey, therefore, does not approve making extended search for bird nests for the purpose of banding the young. Where a cooperator can band young birds near his trapping station he should certainly do so, particularly if the species is one that he knows he can trap in the adult stage. The Bureau particularly disapproves of having school classes, Boy Scout troops, or other juvenile organizations engaged in this nest hunting. Some birds are so very sensitive regarding their nests that these should be approached only by a careful and conscientious student.

Records.--Suitable methods of maintaining banding records at a station are of interest to all cooperators. Dr. Lewis Rumford, of Wilmington, Del., suggests that this be brought to general attention with a request that the Biological Survey be advised regarding systems which have been found satisfactory. Accounts received may be included in subsequent issues of Bird Banding Notes for the benefit of all concerned. In order to supply a basis for this information, the system in use at the central office may be briefly described.

The banding record cards are counted as received, and the number is recorded on the cooperator's card, which shows the total number of birds that he has handled. The records for each fiscal year are kept separate until they have been indexed by species in a loose leaf book, in the order of the A. O. U. Check-List. In this way it is possible in a few minutes' time to ascertain the total number of individuals of any species that have been banded. When the return of a bird is reported, the additional data are entered on the card, which is further designated by a colored index tab. The color and position of these tabs vary with each fiscal year, so that it is a relatively simple matter to remove from the files all the returns received in any year. Returns are also designated in the Index by a red letter "R" after the number of the return record. This makes it possible for a worker to note the numbers of all records of any species for which there are returns.

In addition, there is a card for each cooperator in the "Issue File," which shows the dates on which bands were shipped, also the sizes and inclusive numbers of each. This file is also indexed numerically, a most important feature, as it enables the Bureau to tell to whom any particular band was sent.

Photographs.--Wright M. Pierce has forwarded a splendid photograph taken at his station at Claremont, Calif. Four of his single compartment traps are shown. This station is in operation only about a third of the time, and yet during the period from February 13 to April 17, 1924, over 300 birds were banded and there were more than 100 repeats.

Henry S. Shaw, of Newton Center, Mass., also has sent in three interesting photographs from his station; Mr. and Mrs. John A. Gillespie, of Glenolden, Pa., have forwarded photographs of a family of barn owls which they have banded; and M. J. Magee, of Sault Ste. Marie, has sent in a photograph of the trap that he uses over a bird bath.

STATIONS.

In Bird Banding Notes No. 10 we predicted a total of 30,000 to 40,000 birds banded for the fiscal year (July 1, 1923-June 30, 1924). As this number is issued, the total number reported is over 40,000. This volume of work is indicative of the energy and enthusiasm of bird banders generally and is a source of much satisfaction to the Biological Survey. We regret not being able to give full details of the many interesting reports brought to our attention. At best, we can mention the work of only a few cooperators, but effort is made to give in each issue the outstanding accomplishments of the period discussed.

Several interesting reports have been received from the station at Stanford University, Calif., operated by Ernest H. Quayle, Philip N. Baxter, and Carl D. Duncan. Strangely enough, it has not been bothered by English sparrows although the traps are placed in the open on the university campus.

John F. Shepard, of New Haven, Conn., reports that he counted to 100 while a fox sparrow lay on his open hand. He states that the bird appeared to be hypnotized when stroked lightly on its underparts.

Marion Hawes, of Columbus, Ind., has been cleaning up vagrant cats and English sparrows near his station. In one day he destroyed 87⁺ eggs, 18 young, and 103 nests of this sparrow.

Dr. A. R. Shearer, of Mont Belvieu, Tex., has been interested in a disease that affects the feet of blackbirds and appears similar to "scaly leg." Applications of kerosene oil proved beneficial as shown by repeats. He banded a large number of red-winged blackbirds and grackles.

Harrison F. Lewis, of Ottawa, Ont., is planning during the present season to do extensive bird banding work with such waterfowl as cormorants, at the Magdalen Islands, in the southern part of the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

M. W. de Laubenfels, of Pasadena, Calif., has been doing good work at his station, which is located on the grounds of the high school. During the summer he is engaged in bird work in some of the eastern States.

While en route from New York to Mayaguez, P. R. Stuart T. Danforth banded pipit No. 66584, which came on board the San Juan when the ship was 225 miles south of New York.

G. W. Knechtel, of Kitchener, Ont., is planning several bird banding trips which will include visits to nesting colonies.

R. B. Harding, of Brookline, Mass., has sent in a report that should be an inspiration to those cooperators who can operate only over week-ends. By means of food hoppers Mr. Harding keeps his traps baited all the time, but as the traps are left open the feathered guests enter and leave at will until he desires to capture them. Out of 49 chickadees, 32 repeated a total of 225 times.

Wm. A. J. Grunow, of Pittsfield, Mass., writes that he has been able to secure for banding a few birds caught accidentally in neighboring greenhouses. Birds frequently enter such buildings and there is no doubt that if the bird banding work is brought to the attention of florists they will be glad to communicate with a cooperator when a bird is caught.

Carolyn Jensen, of Mound, Minn., reports banding 27 Baltimore orioles which were attracted by other birds feeding on suet. She has also banded Grimmell water-thrushes and red-winged blackbirds.

S. G. Emilio, of Danvers, Mass., has supplied another angle to the account of the stations of W. H. Ropes and C. H. Preston (Bird Banding Notes No. 10). It appears that his station is at the apex of a triangle formed by the three stations. In addition, the station of Arthur Morley at Swampscott, Mass., is only 5 or 6 miles away. Interesting results should be obtained from this group.

E. O. Grant, of Patten, Me., had his station in operation during a heavy snowstorm in April, when 200 birds were banded in two days. One junco repeated 5 times in one day.

Ernest W. Vickers, of Berlin Center, Ohio, writes that he expected that his work would be confined entirely to fledglings, but after operating his traps during the past winter he is convinced of the much greater importance of the work with adult birds.

Largely through the efforts of Johnson A. Neff, of Marionville, Mo., a new station has been put in operation at the University of Missouri, at Columbia. The interesting results already obtained may make bird banding a regular part of the work at that institution.

Mrs. Elizabeth L. Burbank, of Sandwich, Mass., has increased the number of her traps from four to eleven.

Rev. George E. Allen, of Plainfield, Mass., banded 122 birds of 10 species between April 2 and May 12, 1924.

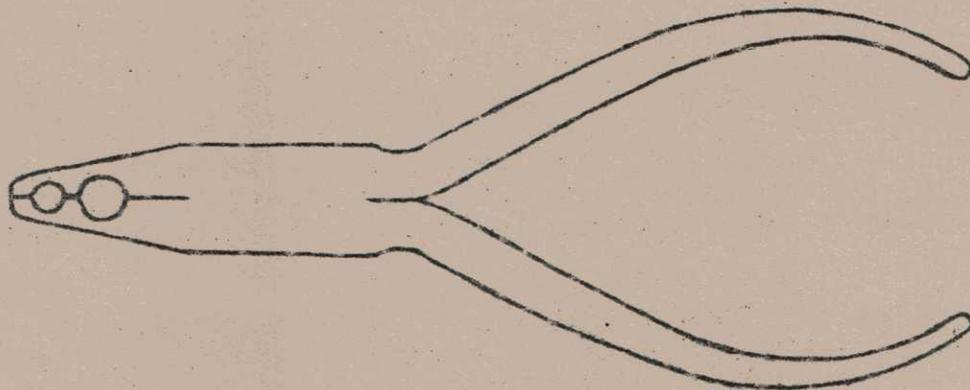
Paul E. Page, of Eagle Gorge, Wash., has resumed his work with waterfowl at Lac Ste. Anne, Alberta.

J. Dewey Soper, of Ottawa, Ont., will be in the arctic during the present season and expects to do a great deal of bird banding there.

BANDS.

During the last few weeks of the fiscal year the Biological Survey experienced some difficulty in maintaining an adequate stock of bands. Some orders could be only partially filled and a few new cooperators had to postpone operations for lack of bands. Cooperators may help prevent this situation by returning their bands when obliged to cease operations for any period exceeding two months.

A. W. Higgins has sent in the description of an interesting tool that he uses for attaching bands.



As shown in the drawing, it is made from a pair of 5-inch pliers held in a vise while two holes were drilled through the jaws, one the size of the No. 1 band and the other of band No. 3. The corners made where the jaws open are filed off enough to prevent marring the surface of the bands. Mr. Higgins writes that the smaller hole will also close bands Nos. 1a and 2, while the larger will also operate on Nos. 4 and 5. A tool of this kind seems very practical and should result in smooth, even bandings.

Mrs. E. F. Chilcott, of Woodward, Okla., writes that at her station she has found the following method of handling bands and cards practical. Envelopes of stiff paper are used and are filled during spare time, each envelope containing a band already opened, with the corresponding card. The envelopes are marked to indicate the size of band that each contains.

Henry S. Shaw, of Newton Center, Mass., is using a similar method except that he numbers each envelope with the number of the band, and when the band is used the data are noted on the face of the envelope, to be transferred later to the record card.

Be sure to sign order cards for bands. Occasionally unsigned cards are received, and in the cases where there are several cooperators in one town there is no clew as to which one has forwarded the request. One of these unsigned orders was recently received from Milwaukee, where there are 12 cooperators.

Everett C. Myers, of Baltimore, Md., reports that cardinals are continually crushing their bands. This is an old trouble, and we have suggested that with all grosbeaks a number 2 band be attached first, with a number 3 over it. If necessary, the smaller band may be slightly trimmed at one end so that it would be small enough for the larger band to close tightly. Then with the pointed pliers "burr" the edges of the outer band so that the inner one will be held securely in place. Report both bands, indicating which is on the outside.

BAIT.

W. R. Hambley, of Elyria, Ohio, reports that cut oranges make good bait for catbirds. Wright M. Pierce has had similar experiences with this bait for house finches.

Henry D. Chadwick, of Westfield, Mass., has found that chickadees are very fond of chopped peanuts and suet, while purple finches prefer sunflower seed. Catbirds frequently carry away large pieces of bread and butter.

Horace D. McCann, of Paoli, Pa., had a robin operate his drop trap by pulling the string attached to the trigger stick. As a result of this observation he thinks bright colored yarn or string might be good bait during the nesting season. This suggestion has also been made by other cooperators and is certainly worth trying, especially for robins and orioles.

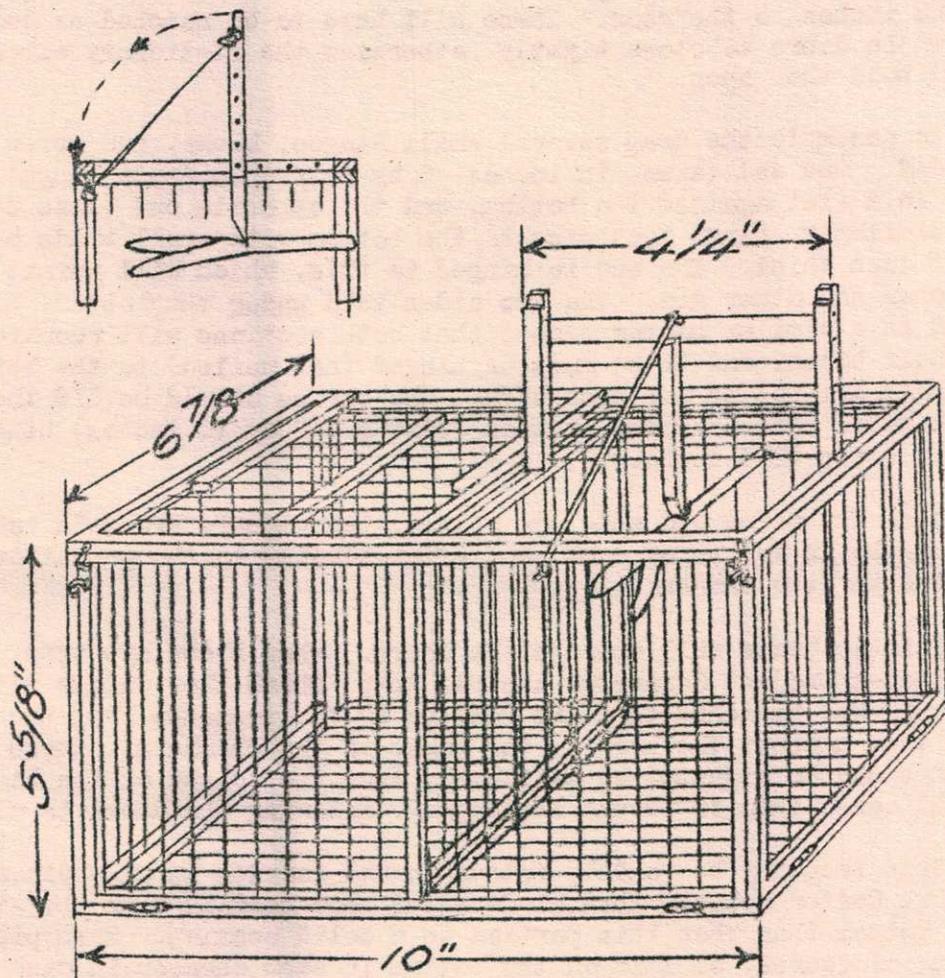
Mrs. Bessie P. Reed, of Lawrence, Kans., reports that cantaloupe and cucumber seeds brought red-breasted nuthatches to her station.

TRAPS.

M. W. de Laubenfels, of Pasadena, Calif., has been testing a top-opening trap equipped with a pasteboard slide operated by means of elastic bands. The weight of the bird released the trap by forcing the trigger perch down. These traps may prove of much importance and should be thoroughly tested.

In this number we are including a drawing and the description of the folding trap successfully used by T. Donald Carter, of New York, N. Y.,

and R. H. Howland, of Upper Montclair, N. J., in their studies of Brewster warblers. As will be observed from the sketch, the trap is two-chambered and in principle is similar to the Chardonneret trap described in Bird Banding Notes No. 10.



The trap is made of a framework of $3/8$ " or $1/2$ " strips perforated at regular intervals ($3/8$ ") in order that "bars" of stiff wire may be inserted. Piano wire or the copper-plated iron wire that comes already straightened is preferable for the bars. Care must be taken to see that the holes in the sides of the frames are directly opposite each other and also opposite those in the central piece, when one is used. Seven frames are needed; two measuring (in inches) 6 by $6-7/8$ (one end and the partition); one $5-5/8$ by $6-7/8$ (the other end); one 6 by 10 (side); one $5-5/8$ by 10 (side); one $6-7/8$ by 10 (bottom); and one $7-1/2$ by 10 (top). The sides, top, and bottom should have pieces through the middle to give greater rigidity to the bars. The partition may be fixed to slide into place, when it will rest on the center brace of the bottom.

In inserting the bars in the frame for the top, they should be run through from ends to center in such a way that two-thirds of the space on opposite sides will not be covered. The trap doors will fit these openings, facing in opposite directions when open. They are hinged by the last stationary wire that passes through the top frame from end to center, also passing through the base of the door frames. At the time the doors are made middle pieces of wood, parallel to the ends, are included, projecting about two inches to the rear. These will have to be notched or cut down to allow the doors to close tightly, otherwise the stationary wires of the top will hold them open.

To assemble the trap several small hinges, hooks, and screw eyes are needed. One end (size, in inches, 6 by 6-7/8) is first hinged so that it will fold flat against the bottom, and the opposite end (size 5-5/8 by 6-7/8) similarly, first fastening to the bottom with small brads a strip of wood 3/8 inch thick. The end is hinged to this, which will permit it to be folded over the other end. The two sides fold under the bottom, but are attached in a similar manner except that both sections will require strips under their bases, and these must be hinged (not nailed) to the bottom. Thus four hinges are needed for each side. The strips should be 3/8 inch and 3/4 inch wide. The narrower section (size 5-5/8 by 10 inches) hinges to the wider strip (3/4 inch).

When the sides and ends are raised, the corners are held together with small hooks and screw eyes, and after sliding in the partition the top is secured in like manner.

Elastic bands will operate the doors. When these are open, the middle pieces project downward into the trap, where they engage with notches cut into forked branches that are held up by the pressure from the doors holding them against the bars at the backs of the chambers. These branches or perches may be adjusted so delicately that the weight of the lightest bird will cause them to become disengaged, allowing the doors to close.

This trap may be readily folded up and carried in an ordinary knapsack. Mr. Carter reports that birds enter more readily with the wire bar type of bottom than when this portion is a solid section. Thin pieces of wood can, of course, be laid on the bottom in each chamber in case the bait is of a kind not likely otherwise to show to advantage. Meal worms are excellent bait for such traps, and may be kept in the trap in glass or porcelain cups with straight smooth sides.

Harry S. Shaw, Jr., of Newton Center, Mass., reports difficulty with his collapsible trap, caused by the sagging of the top. Traps of this type, if more than two feet square, should be reinforced by stiff wire around all edges, otherwise the door is likely to bind and fail to close tightly.

Mr. Shaw has also sent in photographs and a diagram of a small trap (10 by 15 by 6 inches) that he has used successfully. It is a simple wire netting cage secured to a wooden base. The door is hinged at the top, and the sides are cut with a bevel inclined away from the base. Thus, in fall-

ing, the door does not come to rest in a perpendicular position, but slopes outwardly, which Mr. Shaw states is a desirable feature. The door is held open with a string which allows it to close gently, without the bang and alarm to the bird when the door falls suddenly.

Chas. H. Preston, of Danvers, Mass., has also experimented with sloping front traps, and it appears that this feature may be important. Mr. Preston has recently installed two tree trunk traps made from cheap wire dish drainers lined with cheesecloth. The sloping front principle is embodied in these traps by having the lower end of the case boards held a few inches away from the tree.

Marvin E. Haws, of Columbus, Ohio, is much interested in the capture of tree-feeding species, and will probably develop additional traps for this purpose.

Harvey Schwanebeck, of Fenton, Mich., has been operating a feeding shelf that was readily altered by adding a trap-door front, to make it a trapping station. The door is closed by the bird pecking at the suet used for bait. A sparrow trap also is operated.

SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS.

Herons.--On June 15, a party working under the direction of L. E. Fletcher, of Boston, Mass., placed 600 bands on young black-crowned night herons in the colony at Barnstable, Mass.

A second party, headed by S. G. Emilio, of Danvers, Mass., went on June 22 to another colony at Ipswich, Mass., and banded 330 young of this species.

George Lang, of Indian Head, Sask., sent in an emergency call for additional bands for night herons, reporting that he had just banded 55. We anticipate interesting returns from all these colonies.

Gulls and terns.--This campaign is also progressing satisfactorily. Wm. I. Lyon, of Waukegan, Ill., has enlisted the services of a number of the members of the Inland Association, and it appears that the colonies in the Great Lakes will be well covered by bird banders. Mr. Lyon himself will visit a number of colonies in the region of Green Bay, Lake Michigan.

W. S. McCrea will again be at St. James, Mich., where, assisted by F. C. Lincoln of the Washington office, he will cover colonies of gulls and terns on the Beaver Islands.

Harold S. Peters, of Columbus, Ohio, expects to band young gulls and terns at their colonies in the vicinity of Sandusky, Ohio.

Walter E. Hastings will again visit the colonies of common terns in Saginaw Bay, Lake Huron.

Blue jays.--The blue jay investigation is progressing slowly but steadily. Work of this kind requires a long time to accumulate sufficient data to justify a report.

Miss Kathleer M. Hempel, of Elkader, Iowa, is giving special attention to blue jays and will no doubt gather information that will be of much value. Other cooperators might do well to start similar studies.

The following cooperators have been successful recently in banding jays: Arthur Morley, Swampscott, Mass.; Dr. Geo. Roberts, Lake Forest, Ill.; Elmer L. Hoadley, Tarpon Springs, Fla. (Florida blue jays); Bernard L. Huenink, Cedar Grove, Wis.; Wm. L. Edelen, Indianapolis, Ind.; S. Charles Kendeigh, Oberlin, Ohio; D. B. Hogg, Shreveport, La.; Miss Laura Du Four, Racine, Wis.; J. A. Laughlin, Marshall, Mo.; Marvin Hawes, Columbus, Ind.; E. D. Clabaugh, Berkeley, Calif. (California jays); Arthur D. Moore, South Haven, Mich.; J. E. Jensen, Santa Fe., N. Mex. (Woodhouse jays); W. B. Taber, Kansas, Ill.; Mrs. Jean A. Carth, Wellesley, Mass.; G. D. Sprot, Vancouver Island, B. C. (Steller's jays); University of Missouri, Columbia, Mo.; Gordon Wilson, Bowling Green, Ky.; Mrs. H. C. Miller, Racine, Wis.; F. L. Yocom, Oberlin, Ohio; Miss Margaret Thomas, Vicksburg, Mich.; Dayton Stoner, Iowa City, Iowa; H. L. Stoddard, Beachton, Ga.; and R. H. Dean, Anniston, Ala.

Doves.--The banding of mourning doves has recently received increased attention, the record for numbers going to W. B. Taber, of Kansas, Ill. Others who have banded many individuals of this species are Miss Margaret Knox, Indianapolis, Ind.; Wm. L. Edelen, Indianapolis, Ind.; Clarence Jung, Milwaukee, Minn.; Mrs. E. F. Chilcott, Woodward, Okla.; D. H. Boyd, Hobart, Ind.; Dr. Geo. Roberts, Lake Forest, Ill.; S. Charles Kendeigh, Oberlin, Ohio; J. Lynn, Mount Juliet, Tenn.; Elmer L. Hoadley, Tarpon Springs, Fla., banded a ground dove.

Woodpeckers.--These birds have long been favorites, at least so far as downy woodpeckers are concerned. Herbert W. Brandt, of Cleveland, Ohio, has recently banded a large number of downy and hairy woodpeckers; W. B. Taber, of Kansas, Ill., several flickers; W. A. Strong, of San Jose, Calif., several willow woodpeckers; Dr. Geo. Roberts, of Lake Forest, Ill., Mrs. Ed. E. Thompson, of Indianapolis, Ind., Elmer E. Hoadley, of Tarpon Springs, Fla., and O. P. Allert, of McGregor, Iowa, have had gratifying success with red-headed woodpeckers, and Mr. Allert has banded hairy and red-bellied woodpeckers.

Warblers.--When all stations are equipped with suitable traps for these attractive birds, we believe that cooperators will have many new and interesting experiences. As it is, several different species of warblers have been trapped. Mrs. H. C. Miller, of Racine, Wis., banded a Canada and a yellow warbler; J. B. Rishel, of Williamsport, Pa., a Blackburnian warbler; D. H. Boyd, of Hobart, Ind., a Canada warbler; A. C. Bagg, of Holyoke, Mass., a black and white warbler; E. O. Grant, of Patten, Me., a yellow warbler; G. D. Sprot, of Vancouver Island, B. C., a lutescent warbler; N. L. Huff,

of Minneapolis, Minn., a Grinnell water-thrush; and Mr. and Mrs. Frank C. Commons, of Crystal Bay, Minn., several mourning warblers.

Birds of prey.--Returns from hawks and owls are of special interest and these birds should accordingly be banded at every opportunity. P. H. Cobb, of Windsor, Conn., banded several horned owls; A. A. Cross, of Huntington, Mass., banded 3 duck hawks; R. J. Longstreet, of Daytona Beach, Fla., 4 Florida screech owls, and C. M. Shipman, of Willoughby, Ohio, a red-tailed hawk, 3 horned owls, and 4 marsh hawks.

Sparrows and their relatives.--From the fact that sparrows are always well represented in the station records it appears probable that the first detailed studies will be made on members of this group. Juncos, tree sparrows, white-throated sparrows, and song sparrows are favorites in the east, and golden-crowned sparrows, Gambel sparrows, and house finches on the Pacific coast. Among the unusual bandings may be mentioned 2 Bachman sparrows by H. L. Stoddard, of Beachton, Ga.; 52 cardinals and 2 Texas pyrrhuloxias by John C. Jacobs, of San Antonio, Tex.; a large number of goldfinches by Conover Fitch, of Cohasset, Mass., and also by Mrs. Jean E. Carth, of Wellesley, Mass.; many green-backed goldfinches by Philip N. Baxter, of Stockton, Calif.; many fox sparrows by F. H. Kennard, of Newton, Mass.; several Anthony and green-tailed towhees by Miss Blanche Vignos, of Canton, Ohio, and Miss Jessica A. Potter, of Los Angeles, Calif.; several indigo buntings and a dickcissel by W. B. Taber, of Kansas, Ill.; a non-pareil by W. H. Specht, of Shreveport, La.; and a large number of swamp sparrows by R. C. Gilliam, of Dallas, Tex.

Robins and grackles.--From the economic problems connected with both robins and grackles, of which a very large number have been banded, it is a matter of much satisfaction to see them given attention by station operators. Clarence S. Jung, of Milwaukee, Wis., is contemplating a study of the plumages of the robin, based on banded individuals.

Purple finches.--These birds have been favorites at many stations, and M. J. Magee, of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., holds the record for numbers banded. Mr. Magee has been making a study of the plumages of the purple finch and has submitted for review a most interesting paper based on data from his station.

The quail study.--This work is being thoroughly organized and already a large number of birds have been banded. Chas. O. Handley, formerly of Washington and Lee University, Lexington, Va., has been appointed to assist Mr. Stoddard at Beachton, Ga. Incidental to the work with quail, they are banding such other birds as get in the quail traps. In addition, a trap placed over the body of a dead animal resulted in their capturing 63 black vultures, which were banded.

Other interesting bandings.--Miss Carolyn Jensen, of Mound, Minn., banded 27 Baltimore orioles; Mrs. H. C. Miller, of Racine, Wis., banded a Virginia rail, a Baltimore oriole, and several gray-cheeked thrushes;

N. L. Huff, of Minneapolis, Minn., banded several Baltimore orioles, as did also Mrs. Ed. E. Thompson, of Indianapolis, Ind., and Mrs. J. E. Carley, of Stevens Point, Wis.; Prof. L. Y. Lancaster, of Bowling Green, Ky., and the University of Missouri station each report banding several Bewick wrens; John C. Jacobs, of San Antonio, Tex., banded a cactus wren; G. D. Sprot, of Vancouver Id., B. C., banded several western winter wrens; A. A. Cross, of Huntington, Mass., banded 4 solitary vireos; Rev. D. Smith, of Manchester, N. H., B. M. Garrison, of Bee, W. Va., and P. H. Cobb, of Windsor, Conn., banded several phoebes each; W. La Brie, of Kamouraska, Que., reported 20 horned larks; Chas. C. Gardiner, of Smithfield, R. I., banded a large number of barn and tree swallows; Wm. Pepper, of Philadelphia, Pa., caught several starlings; Philip N. Baxter, of Stockton, Calif., banded some plain titmice and western bluebirds; F. G. Hall, of Milton, Wis., caught 22 chimney swifts from a chimney at Milton College; O. C. George, of N. Crystal Lake, Ill., caught a scarlet tanager in a sparrow trap; Mrs. A. G. Mathers, of Middleboro, Mass., banded several red-breasted nuthatches; Walter E. Hastings, of South Lyon, Mich., a few great blue herons; Paul W. Hoffman, of Milwaukee, Wis., a woodcock; H. E. Schwanebeck, of Fenton, Mich., several crows and killdeers; and Harold S. Peters, of Columbus, Ohio, banded a pectoral sandpiper.

J. Eugene Law, of Altadena, Calif., and Wright M. Pierce, of Claremont, Calif., recently banded 554 tri-colored redwings in a single day, and next year they plan to carry on an organized campaign for the banding of these birds.

J. G. Cunningham, of Vancouver, B. C., recently forwarded the records for a number of ducks and other waterfowl banded by him at Lulu Island, B. C.; among them we notice the record of a lesser snow goose.

Albino English sparrows.--The possibility of perpetuating albinism in birds has aroused the interest of John H. Chase, of Youngstown, Ohio. As albinos of the English sparrow or specimens with albinistic tendencies are rather frequently encountered, he has selected this species for study. Co-operators will render material assistance if they will forward alive to him any such birds of this species that they may trap. The birds may be safely shipped in the small cages used by dealers in cage birds for shipping purposes. Address to Geo. W. Burke, Superintendent of Parks, Pittsburgh, Pa.

RETURNS.

Cooperators will be pleased to learn that the bulletin containing all returns received by the Biological Survey from January 1, 1920, to June 30, 1923, has reached the proof stage and it is hoped to have it issued at an early date. A copy will be sent to each cooperator. A supplementary bulletin containing the returns received from July 1, 1923, to June 30, 1924, will be prepared and issued as soon as possible.

Because of the length of this issue, we are omitting information relative to returns recently received.

NEW COOPERATORS.

Federal bird banding permits have been issued to the following new cooperators by the Biological Survey, or by the Canadian Department of the Interior, since Bird Banding Notes No. 11 was issued:

- Adams, Paul J.,
505 Kenyon Ave.,
Knoxville, Tenn.
- Aldrich, John W.,
290 California Ave.,
Providence, R. I.
- Aldrich, Raymond C.,
Westfield, Mass.
- Alphonsus, Brother
Notre Dame University,
Notre Dame, Ind.
- Barr, Arthur G.,
1705 Fremont St.,
So. Pasadena, Calif.
- Benson, Miss Anna,
R. D. 1,
Fruita, Calif.
- Block, Miss Linda,
8 Franklin St.,
Wakefield, Mass.
- Brock, Winfield,
528 - 119th St.,
Whiting, Ind.
- Brubaker, John H.,
239 Broadway,
Rockland, Me.
- Bruce, Miss Bessie M.,
Glendora, Calif.
- Bryens, Oscar M.,
McMillan, Mich.
- Bubb, Miss Mary M.,
Dalmatia, Pa.
- Buffam, G. B. Bonar,
Box 267,
Perth, Ont.
- Burchell, Harrison D.,
Clearwater, Kans.
- Burton, H. E.,
3814 Fulton St.,
Washington, D. C.
- Butler, F. R.,
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With this issue, through the interest and generosity of Mr. S. Prentiss Baldwin, we are sending to cooperators now on the list a copy of Dr. John B. May's report on the Thomasville, Ga., station for the past season, published in The Auk for July, 1924, and a copy of the bird banding section of the Wilson Bulletin for June, 1924.