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BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY
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B I R D B A N D I N G N O T E S

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1926

GENERAL INFORMATION TO COOPERATORS

The new system of handling records.--From reports and letters which the Biological Survey has already received, the new method of handling banding records seems to find favor with cooperators. When station operators are more familiar with the system, its advantages will be manifest in many ways, principally by the great saving of time required to make out reports, which should permit an extension of bird-banding activities. As a few co-operators evidently have not thoroughly understood the method as explained in Bird Banding Notes No. 17 the following additional explanations are offered:

First: Never put more than one species on a schedule, even if this means that there will be but one record on that sheet when forwarded to Washington. The schedules will be filed in folders bearing the name of the cooperator, in A. O. U. Check-list order.

Second: All repeats should be listed. It is by means of these data that precise information bearing on migration and the beginning of the breeding period is made available. In fact, these habitual repeaters are the ones that should be most carefully studied. It is appreciated that for such birds it may be necessary to continue the record in another portion of the schedule. This can easily be done by making a notation at the end of the first portion that the record is "cont. below" (= continued below), and when starting it again in another part of the schedule, first repeat the band number in the space provided and start the record by the notation "cont." (= continued).

Third: It is not necessary to describe substations on the schedules; merely state the type of traps concerned in the records shown on that particular schedule. For example, one station might be operating 12 or 13 traps, but would almost certainly contain a number of different kinds, and it is hardly likely that the records for any one species on a single schedule would include captures (originals, repeats, and returns) for more than eight traps.

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 credit to the person named and to the Bureau.

Fourth: In abbreviating months it is preferable to use letters instead of figures. When figures are used, the first one usually indicates the month, but as there is no set rule for this, to avoid misunderstandings the abbreviated word for the month should be used.

Fifth: When several repeats are obtained on a single day they may be reported in the following manner: Jan. 29 (3A), (2B); Jan. 30, (4B); Feb. 1 (2B); Feb. 2 (A), (3B).

What birds to band.--All native species should be banded and in addition, the starling. English sparrows should not be banded but destroyed. Pheasants or other introduced game birds are not being studied by the banding method, and Biological Survey bands are not issued for use on these birds.

Banding winter residents is fully as important as is that of migrants, for it is usually the so-called resident birds that furnish the most interesting studies and it may develop that they are not so much resident as is now believed.

Do not use bands a second time.--Occasionally banded birds that have been reported to the Washington office die or are killed at the original stations and the bands are removed and used on other birds. This results in two records for one band number and is most objectionable. Always destroy such bands and report the original return to the Bureau.

Do not ship banded birds from one locality to another.--Banding birds in one locality and shipping them to another to be released is not authorized by the banding permits either of Canada or of the United States. Should such shipments be detected by the game authorities of either country the operator responsible would be liable to arrest and prosecution for violation of the migratory-bird treaty act and the provisions of his banding permit.

PHOTOGRAPHS

The interest shown by cooperators in forwarding photographic records of their stations, traps, and captured birds is greatly appreciated. It is difficult to obtain first-class pictures of trapping stations, as the subject does not usually have much pictorial value, while traps and other equipment do not take well.

Clarence Bretsch, of Gary, Ind., has forwarded five prints showing his traps and a few captured birds. Although it is not so indicated, one of the photographs (showing a man holding a cardinal) is apparently that of the operator himself.

E. C. Hoffman, of Lakewood, Ohio, sent in a photograph showing three of his traps and a large number of bronzed grackles.

Hiram Morgan, of Beloit, Wis., sent in six views of his station and traps, one of which is the creeper trap developed by W. I. Lyon.

Although Mr. Lyon's station at Waukegan, Ill., is well known to the Biological Survey, we were much pleased to received a series of 42 pictures, showing his traps, captured birds, and scenes in the gull and tern colonies where he has worked for the past two years.

Harry C. Fortner, of Burlington, Vt., has sent in two interesting pictures of white-crowned sparrow 52980 recently banded at his station.

Mrs. Bessie P. Reed has forwarded three views taken at her station at Lawrence, Kans.

Mrs. J. W. Lawson, of Oracle, Ariz., has supplied the Bureau with two interesting pictures of one of her drop-traps that is operated on a platform placed on top of a stone pillar about waist high.

P. L. Kuntz, of Winnipeg, Man., sent in four excellent pictures of pine grosbeaks and goldfinches at his station.

Frank Quindry, of New Rochelle, N. Y., sent in a picture of his modified Government sparrow-trap.

W. Oliver Wise, of Akron, Ohio, recently banded an immature bald eagle and obtained photographs of the bird while in the process of being banded, and while on the wing after release.

VISITORS TO THE WASHINGTON OFFICE

Dr. Wm. G. Vinal, of Wellfleet, Mass., stopped in Washington on October 9, 1925, while en route from a meeting at Asheville, N. C.

Mrs. W. S. Randall, of Howarden, Iowa, called at the Biological Survey on November 24, 1925. She was en route to Miami, Fla., where she may continue her banding work.

Mrs. Jean Carth, of Wellesley, Mass., called on December 10, 1925, while on her way to points in the South and in California.

STATIONS

The care that cooperators take to assure the safety of birds at their stations is highly gratifying. From reports received it is evident that the so-called domestic cat is one of the worst pests in the vicinity of trapping stations. Although reports are not always made as to the action taken by the operator, the laconic statement attached to the final record of a Harris sparrow, killed in the trap, by (it is hoped) a vagrant cat, is significant: "Somebody's pet is missing."

Eugene C. Stacy, of Tiffin, Ohio, recently captured in one of his traps a young opossum which had entered the trap chamber and killed three quail which had themselves been trapped after sundown.

Shortly before and after the first of the year large numbers of reports from trapping stations were received. It is regretted, however, that detailed accounts can not be given here of all of the excellent work that is being reported by bird-banding cooperators at the several hundred stations.

Harold H. Green, of Columbia, Mo., and formerly of Stanford University, Calif., has sent in a report of operations conducted at the latter point. This station has been in operation for several years and is yielding interesting data. Mr. Greene used a double-compartment, collapsible, drop-door trap which gave excellent results. As a result of his activities he has worked out some maxims that are so good we are including them here for the benefit of all cooperators.

Maxims for Bird Banders

By Harold H. Greene

1. In case of doubt use a larger band.
2. In case of doubt bring the bird in and have your identification OK'd.
3. Let a bird go unbanded rather than band it and wrongly identify it.
4. Treat birds with respect - they appreciate it.
5. Birds are your guests while in your trap - treat them accordingly.
6. Never overlap a ring band. [See note.]
7. Don't forget your trap in bad weather - even birds have to eat.
8. A wrong record for a repeat or return number is worse than useless.
9. Make your record while you can check it, not after the bird has flown and possibly is forgotten.

Note. - The advisability of lapping bands has been much discussed, and while there are arguments for both sides, they seem to favor the maxim that they should not be lapped.

H. W. Clark, of Angwin, Calif., has just started his station and has forwarded a description of the four substations that he will operate. He seems to have ideal surroundings at the Pacific Union College, and interesting records are looked for.

Horace D. McCann, of Paoli, Pa., has forwarded a most interesting report of his activities during the last six months of 1925. He is making a study of the plumage of immature purple grackles, an investigation that is commendable, as cooperators frequently have difficulty in identifying such birds, particularly in regions where both the purple and the bronzed species occur. It would be well for some cooperator working in an area where only the bronzed grackle occurs to take up similar studies so that his results may be checked with those of Mr. McCann.

Willis H. Ropes, of Danvers, Mass., has prepared a list of details that he has found useful in the operation of his station. They will doubtless interest other cooperators and are included here.

Helpful Details

By Willis H. Ropes

"An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."

Undoubtedly, either from carelessness or from neglect to attend to little details, all bird banders, especially novices, lose many of the birds which go into their traps. This applies mainly to pull-string traps, which are the most effective of all types if one has time to tend them.

It seems superfluous to suggest that when a bird is taken from a trap with a gathering cage, the exit should be closed and the trap set again, yet this is neglected occasionally by all banders.

It is a very good plan to use with a gathering cage a soft dark cloth two feet square, which has several uses. One, to roll up and fill the space between the trap and the gathering cage, when transferring a bird. This will prevent many escapes. Another use is to throw it over the trap to darken it when a bird fails to enter the cage quickly. A third, and quite important use, is to cover the gathering cage to keep the bird quiet and thus prevent it from becoming bruised in endeavors to escape.

A transfer cage made of a wooden box is less likely to bruise a bird than an all wire one. It is readily made by sawing out the ends and covering one end and top with wire netting, and making a galvanized-iron handle inserted in the sides.

Many small birds escape through holes under the flat trap made by snow melting, by rain washing soil away, and even by mice. Examine the bottom edges frequently and close holes with grass and earth.

The pull-string should be strong and should be examined occasionally to make sure that rabbits or mice have not cut it during the night. In freezing weather, especially when the ground is bare, the string should be loosened the first thing in the morning. Birds sometimes come to the traps early, and it is exasperating to try to pull a trap, when a bird is feeding inside, and find the string frozen to the ground or grass or cut by a rabbit. Strings shrink in wet weather, especially at nightfall, and spring the traps, unless a foot of slack line is left near the trap. The trip is an important item. As in baseball, a fraction of a second counts. For a flat wire trap 6 inches high, a 4-inch trip is better than a longer one. A good one is made by screwing a small brass (rustless) hinge midway on a piece of wood 4 inches long. Turn it over and saw it through to the joint. Sharpen the ends to wedge shape and insert a screw eye near the center, opposite the hinge.

Always set the trip on a tin cover or other flat metal on the ground. It will pull much easier in freezing or wet weather than if set on the bare ground or ice.

Regarding traps, the shallow rectangular flat wire trap (which has replaced wooden-frame drop traps) is preferable to a deep square one, and costs much less. Birds generally feed near the entrance. An occupant is apt to be selfish, "hogging" the whole thing and keeping others out, unless driven out, when the newcomer repeats the process. If a piece of wire netting the height of the trap is secured in the trap from front to rear, it virtually makes a two-room trap and prevents one bird from monopolizing the whole interior.

A bird should always face into the trap when the string is pulled. This reduces the chance of escape or injury when the door is closed.

A tube of petrolatum is a desirable item for a banding kit, to apply to the base of the beak of a bird, when bruised as sometimes happens in attempting to escape.

When cutting wire netting for a trap 6 inches high, leave the front corners, to project straight out as continuations of the sides of the trap in order to prevent birds from getting out at the sides of the front door. Cut out the front only 4 inches deep and turn straight down the other 2 inches. Suspend door (6 inches high) from the lower edge with stout wire. This arrangement will lengthen the floor of the trap about 4 inches and make the front entrance only 4 inches high (See Note), the 6-inch door falling between the side flanges at an angle of about 60 degrees, instead of falling to a perpendicular, thus giving a bird much less chance to get a start to fly out. It also does away with the need of a spring to close the door, and gives space in front of the middle partition for a bird to pass around to the exit side of a double-room trap. [Note: It is questionable whether the reduction in the size of the entrance is advisable. It will, however, be seen that the same effect may be obtained by cutting out the entire front and attaching a door that is 7 inches wide.]

A shallow flat-wire trap, secured to a board with small staples is handy to move about and to place on top of snow to save shovelling paths to the trap. Nail cloth about edges to prevent seed blowing out.

Probably all banders will concede that they never learn the lesson that "a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush" and that they have repeatedly lost a single bird in the trap by waiting for another near by to go under before pulling the string. Generally with a single trap, if one waits too long, the bird inside finishes feeding or is startled and flies out before another tries to enter, but in the case of a trap with a center partition, two are often caught by one pull of the string. "When in doubt, take the trick."

W. B. Mallory, of Lennox, S. Dak., specialized on the Harris sparrow, capturing 58 individuals. A study of this little-known species would be of great interest.

M. J. Magee, of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., has forwarded his report for the last six months of 1925. It is very well prepared and contains a wealth of detailed information concerning the birds that he has studied, mostly purple finches. During 1925 he banded 2,049 birds, every one of them trapped, and all within 50 feet of his dining-room window. His returns for the year number 144. There are 32 species represented, among which were 13 species of warblers. It is regretted that space is not available to reproduce the entire report as it would be of service to all stations as a model for further work of this kind.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Michener, of Pasadena, Calif., during the first year of their station banded 1,984 birds of 38 varieties. Mr. Michener had an interesting paper in the November-December number of *The Condor*.

Josselyn Van Tyne, of Ann Arbor, Mich., is sailing for Panama this month, but expects to be back at his station early in May.

Carl Richardson, of Trail, Oreg., has established his station in a region that should yield several species not frequently banded. He is located at the lower edge of the Canadian Life Zone.

Seth A. Lovejoy, of Sandwich, Mass., has had some amusing experiences with catbirds pulling at the string of one of his drop-traps, apparently testing the safety of a trap before entering. Occasionally two birds would pull together one behind the other and at other times they would pull in opposite directions in true tug-of-war fashion.

Mrs. Rachel E. Caughey, of Antrim, N. H., caught a young skunk in one of her traps. No attempt was made to band it.

George S. Yerbury, of Passaic, N. J., has his station in operation and producing results. He had a most remarkable case of the so-called "hypnotism," when a banded junco refused to fly and remained perched on top of the trap while other birds were being banded; the bird flew a short distance and then allowed Mr. Yerbury to approach and stroke it again. This was repeated a second time, after which the bird flashed off in characteristic junco fashion.

Miss Elizabeth B. Alsop, of Ridgway, Pa., has established a most interesting station, planting berry-bearing shrubs and utilizing an old Christmas tree to hold suet. A canary cage-trap was her first equipment.

BANDS

The large adjustable bands indicated on order cards as Size X have not been entirely satisfactory and the Bureau is accordingly contemplating the substitution of two or three additional sizes of ring bands made with a locking device like that used on No. 6 bands. These will probably be made from Monel metal, an alloy composed principally of nickel and copper and notable because of its resistance to the corrosive effects of alkaline waters. This metal is much harder than aluminum and the bands will accordingly require more care in attaching, but as they will last much longer it is believed that the change will be beneficial.

The first order for No. 7 bands has been placed. This band will be suitable for the larger ducks, night herons, large gulls, and birds of similar size. A small quantity of No. 4 bands made of Monel metal also has been ordered as an experiment. They will be very stiff but may prove excellent for petrels, small terns, large shorebirds, and the like, although great care must be exercised to see that they are properly attached.

The question has been asked whether it would be advisable to increase the width of the No. 1 bands about one millimeter, so that the word "Notify" could be added to the legend. The Biological Survey would be glad to have the opinion of station operators on this matter, bearing in mind that these are the bands used on the smallest birds. Obviously, if it is practicable to add this word to the smallest bands, all other sizes also may be so stamped.

George S. Yerbury, of Passaic, N. J., reports that black paint rubbed into the numbers of his bands has proved highly satisfactory in recording repeats.

G. D. Sprot, of Cobble Hill, B. C., has called attention to some imperfections on a shipment received of No. 1 bands. Apparently in cutting up the stock, minute projections of metal were left which might of course, be annoying to a bird. He added a fine file to his equipment to smooth off such bands. Every shipment of bands is inspected when they are received from the manufacturer, but it is obviously impracticable to go minutely over each band, and accordingly cooperators are largely depended upon to make a critical examination of the material sent them, correcting defects if possible, and destroying bands that it would be unwise to use.

BAIT

Ren M. Lee, of Tulare, Calif., reports using milo corn, raisins, bird seed, and occasionally fruit as bait.

Chas. O. Handley, of Beachton, Ga., states that he has found pecan nuts to be excellent bait for warblers.

Miss Elizabeth B. Alsop, of Ridgway, Pa., has found that blue jays are fond of the skins of baked potatoes.

TRAPS

The Department of Agriculture has recently issued Department Circular No. 362, "Trapping Ducks for Banding." This circular is for the use of bird-banding cooperators only, and, because of the nature of its contents, is not available for general distribution. A copy has, however, been sent to each cooperator now on the list, as the traps described should be of interest to all those engaged in this work. Particular attention is directed to the spring-pole trap, as this should be useful in capturing such ground-feeding birds as feed in close flocks as many of the sparrows, juncos, blackbirds, and doves. This trap can be made small enough to throw a 10-foot net, which would be about the right size for the average small-bird station. The cooperation of all station operators is requested in seeing that this circular does not fall into the hands of any person who might use the information contained therein in violation of the game laws.

Ren M. Lee, of Tulare, Calif., writes that he used "a double-end trap, with a drop-door tripped by the bird alighting on a trip platform hinged to the door sill, thus releasing the door which drops of its own weight; not heavy enough to injure the smallest bird should it in any way be struck."

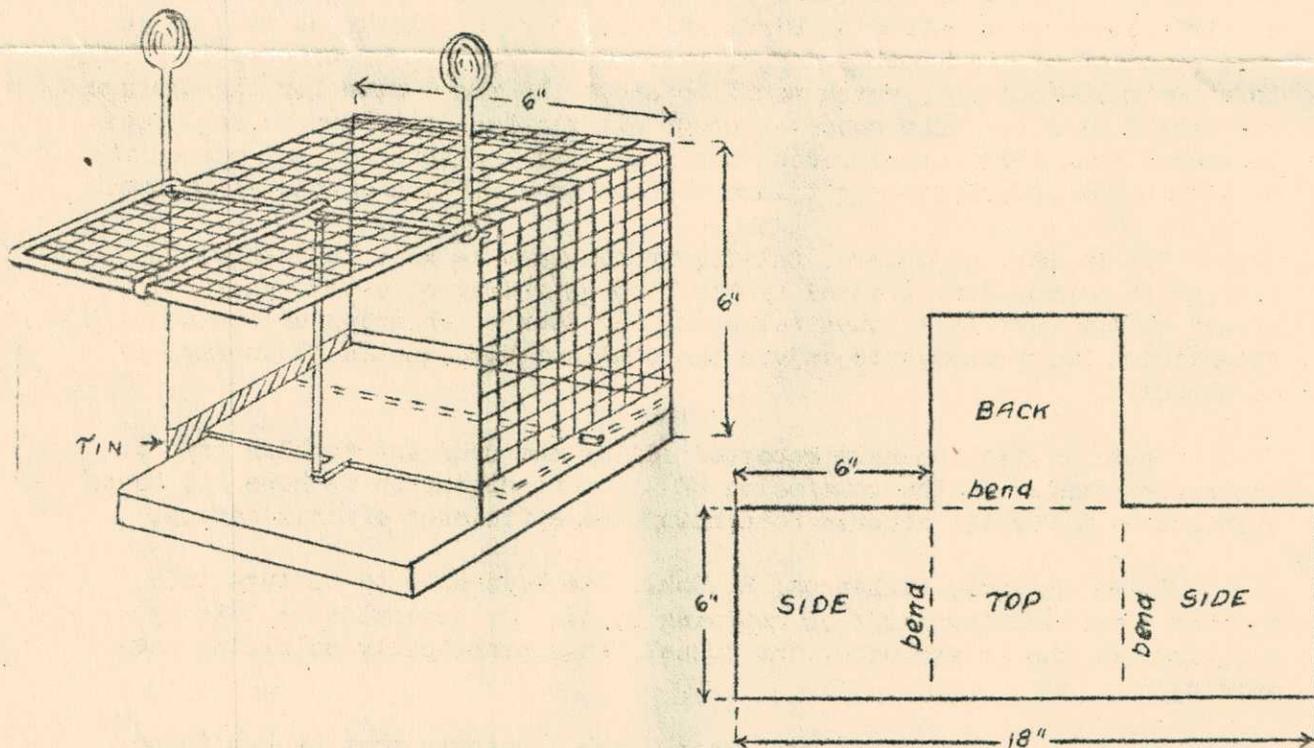
Several stations have reported adding the Cohasset warbler trap to their equipment. At the conclusion of the next migration we hope all these stations will furnish reports concerning the efficiency of this device.

W. B. Mallory, of Lennox, S. Dak., has been able to capture in a sparrow trap birds as large as mourning doves. He accomplishes this by scooping out the ground under the funnel, thus practically enlarging the opening.

Josselyn Van Tyne, of Ann Arbor, Mich., reports that he has found the trap described by J. Eugene Law in Bird Banding Notes No. 14 very effective.

T. E. Musselman, of Quincy, Ill., has sent in a photograph and a drawing of the simple trap that he used in catching chimney swifts. The trap is merely an oblong box made from a framework of light strips of wood, covered all over with lace-curtain netting, except that an opening the size of the flue is left in the bottom. This trap is particularly satisfactory for work on high chimneys where a heavier trap might be a source of danger to the operator. The birds enter the trap and cling to the netting of sides or ends. A slide made of light wood is used to close the opening before the trap is removed from the chimney. This trap is similar to the one used during the latter part of the season by W. L. Stoddard and Chas. C. Handley, of Beachton, Ga. It is hoped to illustrate this in Bird Banding Notes before the swifts again arrive.

The Wing brothers (George, Harold, and Leonard), of Jackson, Mich.,) have been successful at their station and are now planning adding a large series of traps for the present season. One of their traps, which has been successfully used at other stations in their vicinity, they call "The Midget" because of its small size. A recent letter from George Wing contained drawings and a description of this trap, which are included here for the benefit of other operators.



This trap is of the false-floor type, the entire device being mounted on a small piece of board. The trap box and door are made from half-inch-mesh hardware cloth (see pattern on right), while the false floor is of any light wood such as that from which cigar boxes are made. A piece of stiff wire is secured to the false bottom to serve as an axle, bearing in two meshes of the

sides. A single piece of wire is used to form the frame of the door, the two ends projecting from the upper corners about 4 inches and to them are attached lead weights. Loops in this wire at the upper corners serve also to attach the door to the box of the trap. Another piece of wire crosses the door and extends down (when the trap is set) to engage with a projection on the false floor. The weight of a bird on the false floor disengages the trigger wire, dropping the door, and this is held shut by the weights.

A strip of netting 1 foot wide could be used to make several of these traps. Mr. Wing reports that the total cost is trifling and in them he has caught downy and hairy woodpeckers, chickadees, nuthatches, various kinds of sparrows, and even blue jays. He puts a strip of tin around the bottom to prevent captured birds from bruising their heads. This is another of the simple traps that are always successful and will be excellent to use at feeding shelves and to trap parent birds near nests. For general station use a large number might be utilized.

SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS

Cooperators will be interested to know that S. Prentiss Baldwin has reorganized his banding work under the name of The Baldwin Bird Research Laboratory. This is located on his farm at Gates Mills, Ohio. As research associates Mr. Baldwin will have with him this year S. Charles Kendeigh, of Oberlin, Ohio, and Rudyerd Boulton, of the Carnegie Museum of Pittsburgh, Pa. Mr. Kendeigh was at the laboratory last season. Mr. Boulton has already had much experience in bird banding, being one of the organizers and the first secretary of the Eastern Bird Banding Association.

The Biological Survey takes pleasure in announcing to bird-banding cooperators that three of the regional associations, namely, the Northeastern, the Eastern, and the Inland, have already honored Mr. Baldwin by electing him honorary president. It is believed that every station operator will join in commending this action as a token of appreciation for what bird banding in America owes to Mr. Baldwin.

As the migration and nesting season approaches it is hoped that cooperators are making plans for intensive effort with certain species. Present indications are that the chimney swift will receive much attention and a large number banded, both at nest sites and in migrating flocks. In addition to those banded by Mr. Handley, at Thomasville, Ga., and by Mr. Musselman, at Quincy, Ill., many were banded last fall at Columbia, Mo., by Prof. K. C. Sullivan assisted by Cecil Davis, and already Prof. George Wagner, of the University of Wisconsin, plans using a large trap at Madison.

During the winter several hundred blue jays have been banded and a few interesting returns obtained. It will be well to give this species particular attention during the next two months.

Increasing effort is being made to capture warblers and in looking over station reports of the past season it has been interesting to note the numbers of these that have been banded. The Cohasset warbler trap and the Chardonneret trap seem to be the ones most favored for such birds. The Audubon warbler of the West was apparently the species banded in largest numbers, about 400 records having been received in 1925. The yellow warbler comes next with about 300 records and the myrtle warbler a close third with more than 275 records.

W. B. Taber, of Kansas, Ill., is undertaking special work with crows under the direction of the Biological Survey. It is desired that a large number of these birds be banded in order that definite information may be obtained concerning their movements. In a future number of Bird Banding Notes will be presented a summary of Mr. Taber's activities along these lines.

REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Since Bird Banding Notes No. 16 was issued, all cooperative banding associations except the Western have held their annual meetings, the results of which will interest all station operators.

Eastern Bird Banding Association

The annual meeting of the Eastern Association was held at the American Museum of Natural History, New York, on November 12, following the last session of the A. O. U. meeting. As bird-banding subjects had occupied an entire session of the A. O. U. program, no attempt was made to do more than conduct necessary business. The reports of the officers showed the association to be in a thriving condition. During the fall season, the second number of the "Bulletin" was issued under the editorship of Dr. John T. Nichols. It is called a "Song Sparrow Number" and contains several excellent papers based on studies of this species at banding stations.

The result of the election of officers was as follows: President, M. S. Crosby, Rhinebeck, N. Y.; vice-president, R. H. Howland, Upper Montclair, N. J.; secretary, J. A. Gillespie, Glenolden, Pa.; treasurer, B. S. Bowdish, Demarest, N. J.; council, A. A. Allen (past president), R. Boulton, W. Stone, J. T. Nichols, C. E. Chapman, R. E. DeLury, R. E. Horsey, H. H. Cleaves, and R. J. Middleton.

Inland Bird Banding Association

The meeting of the Inland Association was held at Kansas City, Mo., December 28 and 29, 1925, in conjunction with meetings of the Wilson Ornithological Club and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. The sessions of the Wilson Club and Inland Association were held together, Presidents Ganier and Lyon relieving each other in the chair. The combined program carried titles of 22 papers, of which 15 were on bird-banding subjects. Several of these were particularly noteworthy as showing the results obtained from intensive operations with a single species, or in outlining definite plans for further activities.

The election resulted in returning to office the present incumbents except Mr. Perkins who had asked to be relieved of his duties as secretary. This office was filled by the election of T. E. Musselman, of Quincy, Ill. Mr. Perkins remains on the Council, to which also were added the names of Prof. Dayton Stoner, of Iowa City, Iowa, and Prof. H. G. Good, of Auburn, Ala.

Northeastern Bird Banding Association

The annual meeting of the Northeastern Association was held at the Boston Society of Natural History, Boston, Mass., on January 15, 1926. An amendment to the by-laws adopted at this meeting provides for the membership to elect the Council, who in turn meet later and elect the executive officers. Following the business session, an interesting series of papers was presented, illustrated both by lantern slides and motion pictures. On the next day the members took a bird walk to Cohasset, where four productive stations were thrown open for inspection.

The election of officers resulted as follows: President, Francis H. Allen, Boston, Mass.; vice-presidents, Francis B. White, Concord, N. H., Henry S. Shaw, Waban, Mass., Harrison F. Lewis, Toronto, Ont., and Charles L. Whittle, Cohasset, Mass.; corresponding secretary, Laurence B. Fletcher, Brookline, Mass.; recording secretary, Mrs. Alice B. Harrington, Cambridge, Mass.; treasurer, Charles B. Floyd, Auburndale, Mass.; council, F. A. Saunders, W. P. Smith, W. M. Tyler, L. McI. Terrill, R. W. Tufts, and Elsie M. Cooledge.

Their Bulletin, two numbers of which have been issued since last fall, one in October and the other in January, is edited by Charles L. Whittle. It is attractively prepared and the papers are of high character.

Western Bird Banding Association

In addition to publication in The Condor of a bird-banding department, the Western Association has commenced to issue a mimeographed circular or news letter, "News from the Bird Banders," the first number of which appeared in January. In this it is stated that the date of the annual meeting has been set for April 5, 6, and 7 in conjunction with the Cooper Ornithological Club.

The banding departments in the regular ornithological journals, the special bulletin series, and circulars do much to further the investigations that are being done through the application of this method, and it is trusted that all station operators will lend their hearty support so that the efforts of the officers of the regional associations will result in the appearance of interesting and valuable information. At the same time, however, the Bureau must advise all cooperators that their membership in or compliance with the rules of a regional association is not a requirement of the Washington office. While it is believed that these organizations can do much to further the work and while it is recommended that each cooperator take out a membership in the association that is assigned the territory in which he lives, yet if the cooperator does not wish to do this, he may continue his work with no other contact than with the Bureau.

RETURNS

Who used Number 2786? This band, one of the old type originally made for the use of Dr. Alexander Wetmore in his investigations at Salt Lake, Utah, was reported as found on a mallard duck, shot November 24, 1925, near Duxbury, Mass. The Bureau apparently has no record of issue and it is trusted that the cooperator who used it will report the record of banding promptly.

Progress may be reported upon the bulletin that will present summaries of the returns received up to July 1, 1925. As the subject is being handled in a different manner from Department Bulletin No. 1268, considerable time is required for its preparation.

Many returns of exceptional interest have been received during the past few months. It is, of course, possible to enumerate only a few of these but the following are particularly noteworthy:

Double-crested cormorant 333112, banded at Long Pilgrim Island, Que., July 3, 1925, by Gus Langelier, was shot 10 miles from Okeechobee on the Kissimmee River, Fla., December 12, 1925. This is the first record for this species for Florida.

Pintail 367029, banded at Ellinwood, Kans., by Frank W. Robl on March 4, 1925, was killed in Butte County, Calif., December 19, 1925.

Magpie 108127, banded at Laramie, Wyo., May 30, 1925, by F. W. Brown, was caught in a coyote trap at Rosita, Colo., January 14, 1926.

Flicker 71933, banded at Muncie, Ind., June 9, 1925, by O. B. Christy, was killed near Friars Point, Miss., December 16, 1925.

Bronzed grackle 260701, banded August 13, 1925, at Auburndale, Mass., by Chas. B. Floyd, was killed at Benns Church, Va., November 29, 1925.

Bronzed grackle 314281, banded April 12, 1925, at Ottawa, Ont., by Hoyes Lloyd, was secured at Zuni, Va., November 14, 1925.

Tree sparrows 36983 and 36988, banded February 10, 1923, at Vineyard Haven, Mass., by Allen Keniston, were retrapped by him at the same place, January 10, 1926.

Chipping sparrow 55565, banded May 18, 1924, at Westfield, Mass., by Dr. H. D. Chadwick, returned to the same locality and was retrapped April 24, 1925. On November 28, 1925, it was again captured, this time at Pamlico, S. C.

Robin 267404, banded June 20, 1924, at West Allis, Wis., by P. W. Hoffman, was found dead about January 24, 1926, at Woodside, La.

Robin 273933, banded July 7, 1924, at Crystal Bay, Minn., by Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Commons, was taken at Pachuca, Hidalgo, Mexico, December 17, 1925.

Fox sparrow 47587, banded April 2, 1924, at Demarest, N. J., by B. S. Bowdish, was found dead near Pinetown, N. C., January 26, 1926.

NEW COOPERATORS

Adams, N. E.,
518 Laurel St.,
Elkhart, Ind.

Bradt, G. W.,
Michigan Agricultural College,
East Lansing, Mich.

Alsop, Miss Elizabeth Billings,
229 Euclid Ave.,
Ridgway, Pa.

Burich, Otto F. J.,
Three Lakes, Wis.

Bartlett, Illo H.,
125 Fern St.,
East Lansing, Mich.

Chamberlain, Mrs. Joseph S.,
Mount Pleasant,
Amherst, Mass.

Beal, John L.,
706 South York St.,
Gastonia, N. C.

Chapin, Mrs. Lucy Stock,
350 Farmington Ave.,
Hartford, Conn.

Benson, George M.,
Vantage, Oreg.

Cook, Miss Inez Whiting,
306 East Foothill Blvd.,
Glendora, Calif.

Binderup, V. W.,
Minden, Nebr.

Copeland, Miss Josephine,
1103 White Ave.,
Grand Junction, Colo.

Blackwelder, Miss Martha Jean,
Stanford University, Calif.

Cowles, Glenn H.,
426 Park Lane,
East Lansing, Mich.

Force, Miss Edith R., 215 West Fourth St., Okmulgee, Okla.	Lofberg, Mrs. Lila M., Edison Camp 64, Big Creek, Calif.
Fordyce, Mrs. Dorothy Delabarre, Greenbush, Mass.	Loveland, Mrs. Lillian S., 14 O'Connell St., Wellesley, Mass.
Foulds, Harold E., 226 North Adams St., Carthage, Ill.	McCorkle, Miss Eloise, Peabody College, Nashville, Tenn.
Ganster, Howard E., 326 North Utica St., Waukegan, Ill.	Marshall, Carl, R. D. No. 1, Box 32, Tujunga, Calif.
Goellner, Fr. Eugene, St. Anselm College, Manchester, N. H.	Neilson, James A., Wheatland, Wyo.
Goetz, Christian J., 3503 Middleton Ave., Cincinnati, Ohio.	Noak, Harry Richard, 309 Perry St., Oakland, Calif.
Grotts, Miss Pearl, Carthage, Ill.	Osborne, Miss Barbara Luverne, Angwin, Calif.
Gundlach, John J., 1534 University Ave., Madison, Wis.	Petrie, Dr. R. C., 316 South Perry St., Johnstown, N. Y.
Hildebrand, Louis E., New Trier High School, Kenilworth, Ill.	Poff, Lewis M., 205 Tazewell St., Bluefield, W. Va.
Hunt, Mrs. Lucy O., 185 Beacon St., Hartford, Conn.	Pratt, Mrs. H. J., 173 Mountain Rd., W. Hartford, Conn.
Jerrard, R. B., Calcite, Colo.	Price, John Basye, 109 Toyon Hall, Stanford University, Calif.
Jones, Edwin Henry, 3000 East 35th St., Seattle, Wash.	Reedy, Thomas, Templeton, Pa.
Laing, Miss Gertrude G., 448 Park Lane, East Lansing, Mich.	Reis, C. Oscar, 646 Juanita Ave., Los Angeles, Calif.

Robinson, Miss Helen J., 291 Wilson St., Brewer, Me.	Traut, Carl E., R. D. No. 9, Box 112 - M, Battle Creek, Mich.
Savage, James, 1048 Ellicott Sq., Buffalo, N. Y.	Trempe, Alfred Daniel, 612 Kimball St., Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.
Sharp, Paul I., 832 North Broadway, Greensburg, Ind.	Weniger, Mrs. Charles E., Angwin, Calif.
Shedd, John B., 1619 Ashland Ave., Evanston, Ill.	West, Thomas D., 351 West Fifth St., Claremont, Calif.
Smith, Seymour P., 122 Toyon Hall, Stanford University, Calif.	White, Windsor T., 842 East 79th St., Cleveland, Ohio.
Spring, Maj. John V., Jr., 216 Lamont Ave., San Antonio, Tex.	Wilt, Clay E., 147 Elizabeth St., East Lansing, Mich.
Steagall, Mrs. Mary Minerva, 808 South Illinois Ave., Carbondale, Ill.	Zeimet, Carlo, Bothwell Sta., Vienna, Va.

THE FOLLOWING CHANGES OF ADDRESS SHOULD BE NOTED:

Barton, Francis C., jr., 167 Stoneway Lane, Bala, Pa.	Cleaves, Howard H., 242 West 109th St., New York City.
Battell, Sam M., 2812 Leek St., Ames, Iowa.	Fisher, G. Clyde, American Museum Nat. Hist., New York City.
Bolen, Homer R., Department of Biology, State Teachers College, Cape Girardeau, Mo.	Hammer, Arthur L., Department of Entomology, A. & M. College, Miss.
Boulton, Wolfrid Rudyerd, Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh, Pa.	Holm, Adolf L., Lundar, Man.
	Houghton, John D., 152 Suffolk St., Chestnut Hill, Mass.

Hutchings, C. B.,
Entomological Branch,
Dept. Agriculture,
Ottawa, Ont.

Karns, Miss Hilda E.,
1199 Elmwood Ave.,
Buffalo, N. Y.

Lyon, William I.,
811 North Sheridan Rd.,
Waukegan, Ill.

Mathers, Mrs. Albert G.,
"The Pioneer,"
North Middleboro, Mass.

Meleney, Miss Grace C.,
321 Memorial St.,
Great Neck, L. I., N. Y.

Neterer, Miss Inez,
Wilcox Place,
Painesville, Ohio.

Queas, Harry L.,
Residential School,
Eyberry and Academy Rds.,
Philadelphia, Pa.

Quindry, Frank Eugene,
103 Echo Ave.,
New Rochelle, N. Y.

Reed, Mrs. Bessie P.,
2635 Reagan St.,
Dallas, Tex.

Reed, Prof. Carlos I.,
2635 Reagan St.,
Dallas, Tex.

Rishel, John B.,
1344 Lafayette St.,
Denver, Colo.

Test, Louis Agassiz,
Purdue University,
Lafayette, Ind.

Timbrell, Mrs. Esthern
30 West Passaic Ave.,
Rutherford, N. J.

Wheeler, Wm. C.,
McAllister School,
Weston, Mass.

Whelen, Miss Elizabeth D.,
Mount Pocono, Pa.

Whittle, Charles L.,
Room 940, 50 Congress St.,
Boston, Mass.

Williams, Laidlaw O.,
Box 665,
Carmel, Calif.

Yerbury, George S.,
390 Brook Ave.,
Passaic, N. J.