

BIRD BANDING NOTES

ISSUED BY THE BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY, UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOR THE INFORMATION OF BIRD-BANDING COOPERATORS

Vol. 2

Washington, D. C., June, 1935

No. 12

"Watch for Series Designations on Your Bands"
(Series letters now include A, B, C, F, L, 34, and 35)

MEMORANDUM TO ALL BIRDBANDING COOPERATORS

The fiscal year just closing has been one of unusual activity for all Sections and Divisions of the Biological Survey. The urgency of the migratory waterfowl situation and the need for increased attention to this field in order to insure the most advantageous utilization of the various emergency appropriations of Congress, have made it necessary to postpone some other activities. This will explain the nonappearance of an issue of Bird Banding Notes since September 1934.

During this period the Bureau has issued three publications dealing entirely with waterfowl. The numbers and titles of these are: Miscellaneous Publication No. 210, "Status of Waterfowl in 1934"; Circular No. 339, "A Program of Waterfowl Restoration"; and Circular No. 342, "The Waterfowl Flyways of North America." Copies of these were probably received by all station operators. It also is a pleasure to announce to this group of cooperators that a new bulletin on the subject of bird migration is in press. It will be sent to all banding stations as soon as issued.

In a few days the specifications will be drawn up for next year's contract for bands. The Bureau hopes that with the new contract the band sizes can be so standardized that further changes will be unnecessary, and thus please everyone, so far as possible. At present there seems to be too wide a range between sizes 3 and 4, and it is probable that the old size 4 will be restored, thus adding one more size and stepping up the designations for certain existing sizes. That is, the present size 4 will become size 5, the present 5 will become 6, and so on, making 8 numbered sizes, or 10 in all counting sizes 0 and 1A.

Plans also are being considered for a complete revision of the Birdbanding Manual on the loose-leaf system. Much new equipment has been and is being developed, and the

loose-leaf system will make it possible to make additions to the Manual as soon as the traps or other paraphernalia have been tested and endorsed. A revised table of the comparative sizes of birds and bands is particularly needed.

Cooperators may have confidence that birdbanding has come to stay: the Biological Survey is more than ever "sold" on this method of obtaining original information relative to our native birds. During the present emergency special emphasis is being placed upon migratory waterfowl, but bird students in general may be assured that there is no lack of interest in the nongame species. As soon as circumstances permit, active study in this field will be resumed.

Birdbanding stations have continued to operate as usual, and there is on hand a large accumulation of letters and reports showing interesting and important accomplishments. This material has been held for use in preparing "copy" for the next issue of the Notes. That issue, however, should contain the annual report. Therefore, if the volume of banding work done during the year is up to that of either of the last two years, the report may be so extensive that there will be little room for other notes, without greatly increasing the size of the issue. This problem will be faced next month, but cooperators are given this advance notice, so they may not be disappointed if it proves impracticable to comment at length upon some special activity on which they have reported.

Reports from banding stations in order to be included in the totals of the present fiscal year must be received at the Bureau by June 30.