

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., October, 1930

No. 2

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR COOPERATORS

Some station operators seem to think it unnecessary to submit regular reports of their banding work, because of the fact that when return data are received for a banded bird not yet reported from the station it is the practice of the Survey to send the operator the return information with a request for the original data (Form Bi-666). Schedules containing original banding data must be sent in at least once each year for all species banded. As some species are present for only a part of the year, many operators find it advantageous to send in their schedules in two lots.

Since a check of inactive stations is to be made in the near future, permit holders who have been obliged to discontinue banding work will save inconvenience and labor to themselves and the Bureau by voluntarily reporting their status and returning permits and unused bands if conditions are such as to prevent further work at this time. The permit can easily be renewed if the work is later resumed. It will be obvious, however, that, in justice to the many productive stations, shipments of bands can not be allowed to remain idle indefinitely.

Identify Your Birds.--The identification of all birds banded is a matter of first importance. The Survey does not expect station operators to distinguish between closely related subspecies, but every bird banded must be identified down to the species. Such terms as "tern," "snipe," "oriole," or "wren" are not complete identifications, and are worthless as far as our records are concerned. If the bird can not be specifically identified, it should be released unbanded. Remember also that under no circumstances should the records for more than one species be entered on one schedule. These sheets are filed in the order of the Check-List of the American Ornithologists' Union, a procedure that can not be followed when more than one species is given on a schedule. If more forms are needed, an order card or an ordinary postcard will bring an additional supply.

Grackles.--Occasionally it is noted that a cooperator in Illinois or some other State west of the Allegheny Mountains reports banding purple grackles. The purple grackle is found in the central Atlantic Coast region and breeds from southern New England and the region of Long Island Sound south to eastern Tennessee, Alabama, and Georgia. It does not occur regularly anywhere west of the Allegheny Mountains, the grackle found throughout the Great Plains region and in the northeast being the bronzed grackle. Some cooperators have the idea that yellow-eyed grackles are purples and that those with brown eyes are the bronzed variety. The color of the eyes is an indication of age only, as both the purple and bronzed grackles have yellow eyes when adult.

NOTE.--"Bird Banding Notes" is not for general distribution, 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.

Biological Survey Contacts.---For the benefit particularly of new cooperators, it seems desirable to list the Biological Survey officials with whom they are likely to have contact. The banding work is a project of the Division of Biological Investigations:

Paul G. Redington, Chief of Bureau

W. C. Henderson, Associate Chief of Bureau

Dr. W. B. Bell, In Charge, Division of Biological Investigations

F. C. Lincoln, In Charge, Bird-Banding Section

Oliver L. Austin, Jr., Assistant Biologist of the Division, who for the past year has been stationed at the Lake States Forest Experiment Station, St. Paul, Minn., is being transferred to the bird-banding section effective February 1, 1931. Mr. Austin will come to these activities well prepared, as he has had much experience and has shown marked ability to develop new methods. The banding method was used extensively by him during the progress of his investigations in Minnesota. Mr. Austin is at present on furlough while engaged in graduate work at Harvard University.

Use of Tabulation Cards for Returns.---The fiscal year ended June 30, 1930, saw still further advances in the investigation of North American birds through the banding method. In order that the Bureau might more rapidly make available the great quantities of important data that are being assembled, a radical change was made in the manner of handling return records. The punch-card system is an up-to-date business method, and as soon as all old records have been transferred to the new cards (Bi-137), it will be possible not only to locate quickly any particular information desired, but also to make it available in published reports. The task of transferring the records to the new cards and punching them has been one of first magnitude, as current activities occupy the full time of the personnel engaged. It is, however, nearly completed, important help having been rendered by the Chief, through his secretary, Thos. E. Jacoby, and by Doctor Bell, through his stenographer, E. R. Scholl. The American Wild Fowlers cooperated by providing an expert punch operator.

Tabulating Work of Cooperators.---During the fiscal year the Bureau purchased and issued 272,000 bands. The banding of 182,263 birds was reported during the year, and while the total number of returns obtained has not been tabulated (as many are included on schedules sent in before the change in method of handling these data was put into effect), it is estimated that at least 10,000 were received. On June 30 the names of 1,746 cooperators were carried on the list.

In accordance with the practice begun in 1927, a tabulation of the work at banding stations is presented. In examining the lists it should be borne constantly in mind that the figures given represent only the records actually received at the Survey offices in time to be stamped before closing time on June 30, 1930. In other words, the figures do not in many cases give the actual number of birds banded at the respective stations during the period, and they may include the record of some banded during previous years but not received until the present fiscal year. For example, the record of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Michener, of Pasadena, Calif., contains their banding data for 1928, 1929, and 1930. It should be stated again that the value of a banding station is not based solely upon the number of birds banded there. Every station that is consistently operated is an important link in the chains being developed over the entire continent, and valuable studies may be conducted at a station that may not report a hundred new birds a year. On the other hand, all cooperators are interested in learning the results (so far as can be shown in a tabulation of this nature) of the work of different stations, and it is realized that many operators are making definite efforts to advance their stations to still higher classification in point of number of birds banded. This is commendable, for in the final analysis results from banding work depend upon quantity as well as quality production.

In the first group are included those cooperators who reported more than 1,000 birds banded during the year, with their records also given:

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Michener, Pasadena, Calif.....	11,155*
William I. Lyon, Waukegan, Ill.....	5,778
Charles B. Floyd, Boston, Mass.....	4,967
I. H. Johnston, Charleston, W. Va.....	4,003
Prof. Wyman R. Green, Chattanooga, Tenn.....	3,738
C. E. Holcombe, Zion, Ill.....	3,582
Russell S. Davis, Clayton, Ill.....	3,254
S. H. Weakley, Fort Smith, Ark.....	3,218
T. E. Musselman, Quincy, Ill.....	3,180
M. J. Magee, Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.....	2,706
Archie V. Hull, Brigham, Utah.....	2,688
Laurence B. Fletcher, Boston, Mass.....	2,559
Frank W. Robl, Ellinwood, Kans.....	2,462
Mr. and Mrs. Frank W. Commons, Crystal Bay, Minn.....	2,458
Dr. A. R. Shearer, Mont Belvieu, Tex.....	2,375
Oliver L. Austin, Jr., St. Paul, Minn.....	2,181
George M. Benson, Voltage, Oreg.....	2,096
S. Prentiss Baldwin, Gates Mills, Ohio.....	2,089
Frank H. Rose, Moiese, Mont.....	2,000
Louise J. Miller, Zion, Ill.....	1,967
E. A. McIlhenny, Avery Island, La.....	1,916
Wm. P. Wharton, Groton, Mass.....	1,903
J. F. L'Hommedieu, Thomasville, Ga.....	1,896
Dr. Karl Christofferson, Blaney, Mich.....	1,754**
Albert K. Smiley, Mohonk Lake, N. Y.....	1,706
Verdi Burtch, Branchport, N. Y.....	1,683
Henry O. Havemeyer, Mahwah, N. J.....	1,677
Mr. and Mrs. T. T. McCabe, Barkerville, British Columbia.....	1,596
R. J. Middleton, Norristown, Pa.....	1,287
Prof. J. W. Stack, Lansing, Mich.....	1,283
Christian J. Goetz, Cincinnati, Ohio.....	1,239
C. L. Snyder, Fort Bayard, N. Mex.....	1,168
E. Milby Burton, Charleston, S. C.....	1,139
Louis Agassiz Test, Lafayette, Ind.....	1,122
Mr. and Mrs. John A. Gillespie, Glenolden, Pa.....	1,079
John Bartram, West Chester, Pa.....	1,077
Leroy Wilcox, Speonk, N. Y.....	1,055
A. D. Trempe, Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.....	1,053
Prof. O. A. Stevens, Fargo, N. Dak.....	1,043
Frank L. Farley, Camrose, Alberta.....	1,023

*Covers 1928, 1929, and 1930.

**In part, for the Michigan Conservation Commission.

The following cooperators reached a total score of between 800 and 1,000:

Henry P. Baily, Philadelphia, Pa.	Ralph E. DeLury, Ottawa, Ontario
Dr. J. F. Brenckle, Northville, S. Dak.	John T. Emlen, Jr., Philadelphia, Pa.
Dr. H. A. Burns, Ah-Gwah-Ching, Minn.	Joseph Mailliard, San Francisco, Calif.
Ernest D. Clabaugh, Berkeley, Calif.	Dr. Daniel W. Shea, Washington, D. C.
Mr. and Mrs. Ben L. Clary, Coachella, Calif.	D. K. Stephenson, South Bend, Ind.
Mrs. Ethel M. Crowell, Franklin, Mass.	H. S. Turner, Penikese Island, Mass.

The following cooperators reached a total score of between 500 and 800:

Edwin C. Anderson, Dell Rapids, S. Dak.	Dr. W. B. Large, Rochester, N. Y.
Mrs. Effie A. Anthony, Bar Harbor, Me.	Carl Levingston, Redlands, Calif.
Mrs. Marie V. Beals, Elmhurst, N. Y.	Arthur R. Lundquist, Webster, S. Dak.
G. C. Bierens, Fairmount, N. Dak.	Mrs. Claude D. Peake, Mission, Tex.
Maurice Broun, Lenox, Mass.	William Pepper, Jr., Wyncote, Pa.
Carl W. Buchheister, Hewlett, N. Y.	Ronald W. Smith, Wolfville, Nova Scotia.
Henry Bunting, Madison, Wis.	James Spear, Wallingford, Pa.
John R. Carter, Muscow, Saskatchewan.	Edgar L. Stephenson, Youngstown, Ohio.
R. H. Carter, Jr., Muscow, Saskatchewan.	Paul A. Stewart, Leetonia, Ohio.
Mrs. Marie Dales, Sioux City, Iowa.	James W. Stiles, Houston, Tex.
Mrs. Florence K. Daley, Oliverea, N. Y.	Lony B. Strabala, Leetonia, Ohio.
George D. Eustis, Vineyard Haven, Mass.	Miss Cora M. Teot, New Haven, Conn.
Malcolm H. Finley, Baltimore, Md.	Joseph Wendle, Barkerville, British Columbia.
Roscoe W. Franks, Columbus, Ohio.	Samuel W. Witmer, Goshen, Ind.
Frank F. Gander, East San Diego, Calif.	George S. Wolfram, Canal Winchester, Ohio.
Vernon Haskins, East Durham, N. Y.	Dr. Harold B. Wood, Harrisburg, Pa.
Karl D. King, Jr., Wilmette, Ill.	Harry E. Woods, Huntington, Mass.
George Lang, Indian Head, Saskatchewan.	

The following cooperators reached a total score of between 300 and 500:

Rev. George E. Allen, Whitinsville, Mass.	Frederic H. Kennard, Newton Center, Mass.
Oscar P. Allert, McGregor, Iowa.	Mr. and Mrs. J. Eugene Law, Altadena, Calif.
Robert Allison, Athol, Mass.	Seth H. Low, Quincy, Mass.
L. H. Barkhausen, Chicago, Ill.	Frederick E. Ludwig, Lansing, Mich.
B. S. Bowdish, Demarest, N. J.	Geo. W. Luther, DeTour, Mich.
Clarence Bretsch, Gary, Ind.	Horace D. McCann, Paoli, Pa.
Dr. Earl Brooks, Noblesville, Ind.	James P. Melzer, Milford, N. H.
Oscar M. Bryens, McMillan, Mich.	Charles J. Mercer, Southampton, N. Y.
Mrs. George E. Burbank, Sandwich, Mass.	R. J. Niedrach and John B. Rishel, Denver, Colo.
Mrs. Lucy Stock Chapin, Hartford, Conn.	W. Rodman Peabody, Milton, Mass.
Norman Criddle, Treesbank, Manitoba.	Dr. William Pepper, Philadelphia, Pa.
Ted G. Delang, Wilmette, Ill.	Samuel E. Perkins, III, Indianapolis, Ind.
Richard J. Eaton, Boston, Mass.	L. C. Pettibone, Dawson, N. Dak.
Albert F. Eichelsdoerfer, Rock Island, Ill.	Wright M. Pierce, Claremont, Calif.
Geoffrey Gill, Huntington, N. Y.	Dr. Miles D. Pirnie, Lansing, Mich.
Richard Gordon, Abbeville, La.	Mrs. John A. Thompson, Minneapolis, Minn.
John J. Gundlach, Madison, Wis.	Loring W. Turrell, Smithtown Branch, N.Y.
Donald F. Hansen, Evansville, Wis.	Dr. William A. Wellemeyer, Vassar, Mich.
Mrs. Jessie H. Hatch, Imperial, Calif.	Mrs. Henry H. Wilder, Westfield, Mass.
Dr. Harold H. Hayes, Hubbard Woods, Ill.	Harold C. Wilson, Ephraim, Wis.
Paul W. Hoffman, Milwaukee, Wis.	C. Brooke Worth, St. Davids, Pa.
N. L. Huff, Minneapolis, Minn.	

The following cooperators reached a total score of between 200 and 300:

Charles E. Abromavich, Baltimore, Md.	Misses Agnes and Susie Callaway, Fairbury, Nebr.
Clark R. Allison, Swarthmore, Pa.	Lowell E. Carter, Russiaville, Ind.
Miss Dorothy A. Baldwin, Hardwick, Mass.	Mrs. Rachel E. Caughey, Antrim, N. H.
Henry A. Bowden (for J. W. Titcomb), Litchfield, Conn.	

Mr. and Mrs. Francis V. Crane, Needham, Mass. Mrs. Sadie B. Knox, Westfield, Mass.
David John Davis, Wilmette, Ill. L. M. Litzenberger, El Paso, Tex.
Mrs. Elizabeth M. Dunham, Wellesley, Mass. Prof. Raymond R. Marsden, Hanover, N. H.
Mrs. P. A. Fraleigh, Burlington, Vt. Arthur Morley, Swampscott, Mass.
Mrs. Elsa K. Glossbrenner, Indianapolis, Ind. A. A. Oliver, Mount Eden, Calif.
Fr. Eugene Goellner, Manchester, N. H. J. R. Paxton, Zion, Ill.
Harry C. Greene, Detroit, Mich. Mrs. Emily C. Peabody, Appleton, Wis.
Arthur J. K. Hallock, Wayland, Mass. Theed Pearse, Courtenay, British Columbia.
Mrs. Isabel Hansard and Mrs. Elsie H. O. S. Pettingill, Middleton, Mass.
MacDougald, Brevard, N. C. Prof. Frank Smith, Hillsdale, Mich.
Frank Hopkins, Campbellsport, Wis. Nion R. Tucker, Burlingame, Calif.
Mrs. Frank D. Hubbard, New Haven, Conn. W. Bryant Tyrrell, Bloomfield Hills, Mich.
Miss Helen C. Hunt, Cambridge, Mass. Prof. George Wagner, Madison, Wis.
Mrs. Ethel S. Irwin, Quincy, Ill. E. C. Weeks, Sanbornton, N. H.
Hugh R. Israel, Palo Alto, Calif. Mrs. Kenneth B. Wetherbee, Worcester, Mass.
Mrs. Esther L. Jackson, Ohio, Ill. Charles R. Wiant, Tupelo, Miss.
R. B. Jerrard, Calcite, Colo.

The following cooperators reached a total score of between 100 and 200:

Walter I. Allen, Altadena, Calif. Fred Gallup, Escondido, Calif.
C. W. Allison, Clayton, Mo. Mrs. R. M. Gaston, Chicago, Ill.
Harry G. Anderson, Madison, Wis. Mrs. Blanche M. Getty, Sioux Falls, S. Dak.
Stanley C. Arthur, New Orleans, La. Mrs. Anna C. Goddard, Greensburg, Ind.
Mrs. F. L. Battell, Ames, Iowa. W. Earl Godfrey, Wolfville, Nova Scotia.
Leslie D. Beadle, Platteville, Wis. Henry George Good, Auburn, Ala.
Joseph N. Beck, Remsen, Iowa. Mrs. Florence C. Griscom, Roslyn, Pa.
Carmen Beining, Platteville, Wis. Mrs. Marjorie Lee Guest, Athens, Ohio.
Henry S. Bennett, Oberlin, Ohio. Mrs. Julian H. Hall, Athens, Ill.
Glenn Berner, Jamestown, N. Dak. R. C. Hallman, St. Augustine, Fla.
Geo. J. Bills, Sauvie Is., Linnton, Oreg. Harry S. Hathaway, South Auburn, R. I.
Robert M. Blakely, Canora, Saskatchewan. Homer W. Hedge, Holton, Kans.
Miss Marion A. Boggs, Waynesville, N. C. Mrs. Charles S. Hegeman, Montclair, N. J.
Alfred Bradford, Appleton, Wis. Edward C. Hoffman, Cleveland, Ohio.
John A. Briggs, Regina, Saskatchewan. Russell Hubricht, Lynwood, Calif.
Herbert Buckalew, Milford, Del. Lee Jacobs, Vicksburg, Mich.
Thornton W. Burgess, Springfield, Mass. Donald Johnson, Garden Prairie, Ill.
Walter G. Cady, Middletown, Conn. Clarence S. Jung, Milwaukee, Wis.
Floyd B. Chapman, Columbus, Ohio. E. R. Kalmbach, Washington, D. C.
Albert E. Clattenburg, Jr., Bala-Cynwyd, Pa. Allan Keniston, Vineyard Haven, Mass.
Miss Helen E. Clayton, Indianapolis, Ind. C. Gordon Kriebel, Norristown, Pa.
Miss Katharine P. Claytor, Bedford, Va. James A. Laughlin, Marshall, Mo.
Miss Marion Clow, Lake Forest, Ill. Mrs. Frederick C. Lincoln, Takoma Park, Md.
Arthur W. Cole, West Lafayette, Ind. Mrs. Lila M. Lofberg, Big Creek, Calif.
Wayne Dancer, Toledo, Ohio. R. J. Longstreet, Daytona Beach, Fla.
W. M. Davidson, Silver Spring, Md. Mrs. G. H. Love, Corsicana, Tex.
E. A. Doolittle, Painesville, Ohio. Lloyd B. MacPherson, Wolfville, Nova Scotia
E. W. Ehmann, Oakland, Calif. James R. McGreal, Somersworth, N. H.
A. W. Elder, Yountville, Calif. Mrs. Albert G. Mathers, Danbury, Conn.
Colvin Farley, White Plains, N. Y. Karl R. Mayer, Easton, Pa.
L. D. Felton, Mooreland, Ind. Major Montgomery Meigs, Keokuk, Iowa.
Mrs. Estella C. Feser, Chicago, Ill. Mrs. Charles W. Melcher, Downers Grove, Ill.
A. E. Forder, Thief River Falls, Minn. Miss Grace C. Meleney, White Plains, N. Y.

Mrs. Daisie M. Morrison, Gulfport, Fla.	Herbert H. Smith, Newton, Mass.
J. R. Morton, E. Kildonan, Manitoba.	Lester W. Smith, Babson Park, Mass.
Johnson Neff, Marionville, Mo.	Wendell P. Smith, Wells River, Vt.
Mrs. Arthur Newton Pack, Princeton, N. J.	H. A. Southerland, Hall, N. Y.
Paul E. Page, Eagle Gorge, Wash.	Charles J. Spiker, Sioux City, Iowa.
J. A. M. Patrick, Yorkton, Saskatchewan.	G. D. Sprot, Vancouver Island, British Columbia.
John J. Polasko, Stamford, Conn.	Eugene C. Stacy, Tiffin, Ohio.
James V. Porter, Glenwood, Minn.	Stanley M. Stagg, Frankfort, Ky.
Mrs. F. J. Pratt, West Hartford, Conn.	A. E. Steinbring, Ripon, Wis.
Miss Helen S. Pratt, Eagle Rock, Calif.	Edna M. Stevens, Blue Rapids, Kans.
Charles H. Preston, Danvers, Mass.	H. C. Sturdevant, La Crosse, Wis.
Webster H. Ransom, Spokane, Wash.	W. B. Taber, Kansas, Ill.
F. W. Rapp, Vicksburg, Mich.	Eric M. Tait, Summerland, British Columbia
James Rintoul, Bardonia, N. Y.	Mrs. Georgia B. Thomas, Indianapolis, Ind.
John McB. Robertson, Buena Park, Calif.	Mrs. Hildegarde C. Thorp, Amherst, Mass.
Helen J. Robinson, Brewer, Me.	Carl E. Traut, Battle Creek, Mich.
Mr. and Mrs. Frank J. Roubal, Eugene, Oreg.	John Vernon, Kenosha, Wis.
Dr. Edward G. Rowland, Norwich, Conn.	Ernest W. Vickers, Berlin Center, Ohio.
Agnes E. Russell, Westfield, Wis.	Blanche Vignos, Los Angeles, Calif.
Mrs. Herbert F. Salmond, Westfield, Mass.	Lawrence Ward, St. Johns, Mich.
Benjamin Shreve, Salem, Mass.	Allan G. Watkins, Oberlin, Ohio.
Miss Cora E. Shoop, Monett, Mo.	H. D. Whellams, Winnipeg, Manitoba.
Philip Siemens, Hepburn, Saskatchewan.	Mrs. E. S. White, Joliet, Ill.
H. M. Simpson, West Summerland, British Columbia.	Mr. and Mrs. Charles L. Whittle, Peterboro, N. H.
Ephraim C. Smith, Penns Grove, N. J.	Harold A. Zimmerman, Muncie, Ind.

PHOTOGRAPHS

Since the last number of Bird Banding Notes was issued, the following photographs have been received from cooperators and added to the collection:

Mrs. John F. Anthony, of Bar Harbor, Md.: Five, of the different traps she has in operation, with remarks concerning their efficiency.

Miss Emily Butterfield, of Farmington, Mich.: Six, showing her window-feeding station, traps used in connection with it, and a young robin that she raised by hand.

Carl Richardson, of Klamath Falls, Oreg.: One, of the breeding colony of California gulls at Government Sump, Klamath Basin, which was the scene of banding operations by him on June 27, 1930.

George D. Eustis, of Chilmark, Mass.: Two, showing the location of the nest, and the nest itself, of a pair of Carolina wrens that selected a small outbuilding as the site for their home.

Reed W. Ferris, of Beaver, Oreg.: Twenty-one, including an excellent series taken at a colony of California murrelets, located at Cape Lookout, Oreg., and a series of small birds, such as juncos, flickers, and jays photographed at a feeding station.

Dr. Alexander Wetmore, of Washington, D. C.: A photograph taken by Doctor Wetmore on June 10, 1930, of Mr. H. F. Witherby, director of the British Birds Magazine banding scheme in London, England.

C. H. Watson, of Andover, N. Y.: Two, one of which shows a ruby-throated hummingbird on its nest, while the other is a portrait of a barred owl.

Miss Pearl E. Post, of Prescott, Ariz.: One, showing the location of her different banding traps. We notice that a long-crested jay is trying to make up its mind whether to go into a beginner's flat trap.

C. V. Knepper, of Medina, N. Y.: Three, one of which shows Mr. Knepper holding his first bird captured for banding, and the other two show the location of two of his Government sparrow traps.

Mrs. Helen M. Edwards, of Fairhope, Ala.: Three, one showing blue jays in a Government sparrow trap, and the other two showing immature Louisiana and little blue herons standing contentedly upon the hand of her son, who has helped with the banding of these birds.

James V. Porter, of Glenwood, Minn.: A portrait of an immature red-tailed hawk, which we notice is wearing a Biological Survey band.

Mrs. Marie A. Commons, Crystal Bay, Minn.: A photograph of the gravel pit showing the bank-swallow colony that was the scene of important banding work by her during the past season.

Paul W. Hoffman, of Milwaukee, Wis.: Eleven, including a series of pictures of tree swallows at a nesting box.

Gustav Marx, of Milwaukee, Wis.: Four, showing an immature bittern, two banded yellowlegs, and a semipalmated sandpiper.

Mrs. Mabel Gillespie, of Glenolden, Pa.: Five, of which three are of scenes at her station, while the other two are of an immature laughing gull, photographed at Muskeget, Mass.

Dr. R. D. Book, of Corning, Ohio: Four, showing the country where much of his bird work is done, and a martin house with one of the birds in flight.

J. W. Stiles, of Houston, Tex.: Twelve, showing scenes in the heron, tern, and blackskimmer colonies on the Texas coast that were the scene of extensive operations by him during the past season.

It will be appreciated if photographs to be sent the Survey are printed on glossy paper with a legend or title and name and address (city and State) of the operator written on the back. This writing should be in pen and ink, as a lead pencil is likely to indent the photograph so that the impression would show in a reproduction.

WORK AT BANDING STATIONS

Reed W. Ferris, of Beaver, Oreg., on July 8, 1930, wrote that he desired to conduct banding operations at a colony of California murrelets at Cape Lookout, Oreg. The Survey accordingly sent him a special shipment of bands, a good portion of which he was able to use. It will be recalled that Dr. Harrison F. Lewis has banded a number of common murrelets in Saguenay County, Quebec, from which some interesting returns have been received. We accordingly hope that comparable data may be obtained from these birds banded by Mr. Ferris.

Dr. A. R. Shearer, of Mont Blevieu, Tex., is planning to extend his banding operations and include some work with herons and probably also with migratory waterfowl. In view of the splendid success that he has had in banding blackbirds we feel sure that he will obtain important results in case he is able to work with these other groups.

Russell S. Davis, of Clayton, Ill., commenting upon his operations with horned larks calls attention to an important matter. He states that there is a bare spot on the underside of the wing that is traversed by large blood vessels. The birds in their efforts to escape from cage traps are likely to strike this bare spot against the wire netting and cause it to bleed profusely. In sub-zero weather this might cause the bird to freeze to the cage or the wing feathers to freeze to the body feathers of the bird. Mr. Davis recommends a trap made from a cardboard box with a wire cover. This should be borne in mind by any operators who have opportunity to work with these birds.

Christian J. Goetz, of Cincinnati, Ohio has brought to our attention an error on page 6 of Bird Banding Notes, Volume 2, No. 1, wherein it is stated that he banded 400 starlings at Lawrenceburg Junction, Ohio. This should have read more than 700 starlings at Lawrenceburg Junction, Ind.

Dr. J. F. Brenckle, of Northville, S. Dak., reported interesting work in connection with the banding of burrowing owls. He was able to trap these birds at their nesting burrows through the use of a modified funnel trap. Burrowing owls are known to have a distinct migration, and it is, therefore, well worth while to band them at every opportunity.

James V. Porter, of Glenwood, Minn., commenting on the recapture by Henry P. Baily, of Philadelphia, Pa., of his first banded bird, states that he too has had this experience. His first bird was a purple grackle, banded on August 8, 1926, which was retaken at his station on September 25, 1928. His third banded bird, marked on September 6, 1926, was killed in a near-by town on May 27, 1928.

William I. Lyon, of Waukegan, Ill., President of the Inland Bird Banding Association, again made an extensive trip this season for the banding of gulls and terns, and assisted other cooperators in organizing work of this nature in the territory of the Inland Association. He has not yet sent in the total number of birds banded, but we are sure that he will have a most interesting report.

Harold C. Wilson, of Ephraim, Wis., participated in this banding work with gulls and terns, his total for the herring gulls being 1,292. Most of these were banded at the Sister Islands and at Hat Island, Wis.

B. S. Bowdish, of Demarest, N. J., also took part in the campaign for the banding of gulls and terns. On July 13, 1930, he visited a colony of common terns and black skimmers near Brant Beach, N. J., and used more than 270 bands.

Laurence B. Fletcher, of Cohasset, Mass., President of the Northeastern Bird Banding Association, organized a banding party, and with Dr. Winsor M. Tyler, Robert Walcott, and Henry Endicott proceeded to Penikese Island, where they banded a total of 1,700 roseate and common terns.

Charles B. Floyd, of Boston, Mass., continued his operations with the common and roseate terns at Chatham, banding 1,844 common and 1,146 roseate terns. He states that he trapped on the nest 209 adult common terns, 15 of which were returns from previous years. A detailed study of his results will be prepared by him and published in the new periodical Bird Banding.

Floyd B. Chapman, of Columbus, Ohio, submitted an interesting report covering his first year as a bird-banding cooperator. He has six traps in operation, and from the description that he gives of conditions around his station he evidently has an excellent location. This is further borne out by the variety of birds he has banded.

Raymond J. Middleton, of Norristown, Pa., reports an excellent year for warblers, 8 species of which have been taken at his station in Chardonneret traps baited with water. One of these (the Kentucky warbler) was the first one reported from that vicinity. In addition to the warblers he also trapped a scarlet tanager and an orchard oriole in this type of trap. Mr. Middleton is participating in the banding of chimney swifts and expects to band 500 during the present season.

Oscar M. Bryens, of McMillan, Mich., has had remarkable success during recent years in banding Savannah sparrows. Prior to 1930 his grand total for this species was 211, while this year up to August 17, he had taken more than 300. It is curious that all these were new birds and that he has not obtained any returns of those banded in previous seasons. This may be an indication of an interesting migration for this bird, which would warrant its receiving careful study at banding stations.

Mrs. Marie A. Commons, of Crystal Bay, Minn., banded 426 bank swallows at a colony near her station. In commenting on this work she expresses surprise that these birds were remarkably clean and free from all parasites. On an earlier experience with this species she had found the young birds to be infested with bird lice and also with the larvae of one of the flesh flies.

Lester R. Marland, of Ware, Mass., reports that he closed his first year as a cooperator in the banding work on August 5 with a total of 200 birds banded. He is striving for a grand total of 400 for his second year. One of his captures was a song sparrow that had a rich-orange colored mouth. In writing to Mr. Marland about this bird the Survey expressed its opinion that possibly it was immature, but that the color may have been caused by some unknown food. The colors of the soft parts of birds would form an interesting subject for study at some banding station, and it would be worth while to note the transition of color from that possessed by the nestling birds to that of the adults.

J. W. Stiles, of Houston, Tex., visited some bird colonies near Port O'Connor, Tex., and banded 52 great blue herons, 191 snowy herons, 120 reddish egrets, 255 royal terns, 160 Louisiana herons, and others.

BANDS

Occasionally when a string of bands is returned by a station operator, it is noticed that a few bands have been used from various places rather than in regular sequence. This seems like rather a curious way of using bands, as it would simplify the keeping of records to use bands in regular order. On the other hand, all cooperators are cautioned not to take for granted the number of any band, but always to examine it carefully. It should be remembered that these bands are made by machinery and although an inspection is maintained both by the manufacturer and by the Biological Survey, occasionally a number will be duplicated or omitted. An omitted number is not of much consequence provided that its absence is detected by the person to whom the string of bands in which it occurs is issued, but a duplicate number might cause serious confusion. If two bands are found bearing the same number, one of them should be destroyed.

Although the Survey appreciates the efforts of cooperators to keep their orders for bands within reasonable bounds and not to overestimate their probable needs, on the other hand it is not good economy to issue strings of 10 or 15 bands every few days to any one station. After a station has been in operation long enough that the operator knows something of the number of birds he is attracting, he should be able to order needed bands more intelligently, usually in strings of 25, 50, or 100.

TRAPS

O. J. Gromme, of Milwaukee, Wis., recently obtained an immature little blue heron in a rather novel manner. While he was watching four of these birds, three of them suddenly took wing and flew away, while the attempted take-off of the fourth ended in a sprawl on the water. It was found that a "scientifically inclined" snapping turtle had a good hold of the bird's foot. The heron was rescued and banded, being the first of this species to be banded in Wisconsin.

Dr. W. A. Wellemeier, of Vassar, Mich., has had some interesting experiences in experimenting with a net for the capture of grackles and robins. He obtained from a fisherman a section of discarded net of half-inch mesh. He put this on the ground and covered the edges with earth to make it tight, except in the center of one or both sides, which was propped up with a brace attached to a pull string. The rear part of the net was fastened around a simple beginner's flat trap, the door of which was held open by a pull-string attached to a stick in front of the net. When birds had fed under the net, the sides were dropped by pulling the braces, and it was found that the birds would immediately go into the trap at the back, from which they were easily removed in the regular manner.

In constructing false-bottom traps of the type shown in Figure 22 of the Manual, David J. Davis, of Frankfort, Mich., has found that he obtains better results by making the false bottom from a piece of wire netting rather than from a thin piece of board. Traps of this kind he finds excellent for the capture of jays and robins.

BAIT

Occasionally the Survey is asked how catnip oil may be obtained for use in the Biological Survey cat trap. Until recently this oil was not on the market and was manufactured only in the Department laboratories. We understand, however, that it can now be obtained from two firms: G. O. Batey, Fennville, Mich., and Fritzsche Brothers, Inc., 82-84 Beekman St., New York, N. Y. This oil is quite expensive, one quotation being \$6.00 an ounce, but as two or three drops of the oil mixed with an ounce of liquid petrolatum is sufficient to bait a trap several times, it will be seen that the expense is not so great as at first appears.

James E. Townsend, Jr., of Brookings, S. Dak., reports that he has found that robins and brown thrashers come readily to his traps when baited with apples.

Mrs. Ben L. Clary, of Coachella, Calif., captured 10 western tangers by using apricots as bait. She also captured several long-tailed chats, Bullock's orioles, and black-headed grosbeaks when her traps were baited with pods of the balsam, also known as touch-me-not, or lady's slipper.

Mrs. Rachel E. Caughey, of Antrim, N. H., in commenting upon the use of raw pie-crust as a bait, states that for a long time she has been baking scraps of left-over crust and crumbling it for the birds. She has found that they are very fond of this.

George D. Eustis, of Chilmark, Mass., who has been collecting moths for an entomologist, states that the common ones are given back to him and that he uses them as bait in his traps. In this way he captured a pine grosbeak, which is an unusual bird in his vicinity. He has found that one moth, known as Anisota stigma, is consistently rejected by all birds. This use of dried insects as bait may have important possibilities and should enable the operator to ascertain those insects that are particularly favored by different species of birds.

C. E. Holcombe, of Zion, Ill., reports that during this year he has made a practice of drying eggshells from his kitchen, crushing them, and mixing the broken shell with the grit that he places in his traps with other bait. He finds that the broken shells disappear rapidly, indicating that birds probably search for them. Mr. Holcombe says that this adds to the supply of feed and costs nothing.

Horace D. McCann, of Paoli, Pa., reports that he trapped more Baltimore orioles this year than ever before, stating that they entered his Chardonneret trap freely when string was used for bait. In addition to the orioles, he also had found that an abundant supply of short lengths of string and cotton batting is an attraction to waxwings, warbling vireos, yellow warblers, hummingbirds, robins, and possibly others.

RECORDS

In handling return cards (Bi-137) station operators are requested not to use paper clips or pins. Paper clips are likely to damage the edges of the card and so interfere with passage through the sorting machine. It is particularly important to safeguard the long edges.

Occasionally cooperators ask if it is necessary to have a schedule filled before it is sent to the Survey. It is not necessary to have a schedule filled on both sides or even on one side before it is sent in. Probably the great majority of the schedules that are received do not have all spaces on one side filled. Obviously it is desirable to have as many records as possible upon each sheet, but schedules should not be held at banding stations indefinitely in order that this purpose might be accomplished.

RETURNS

Foreign Returns.—When a station operator reports the capture of a banded bird foreign to his station, the Survey will (when the record is completed) advise him of the banding record. This information will be sent on a 3 by 5 card (old form of Bi-137) without transmittal of the communication. The recovery data will be sent to the station of origin on the usual form post card Bi-623.

Mrs. Charles S. Hegeman, of Montclair, N. J., reports that on May 8, 1928, she banded a robin that was in normal plumage, but when it was recaptured on April 15, 1930, it had a broad white collar or band around its neck.

Black skimmer No. 222043, banded on July 20, 1924, at Gull Bar, Englesea, N. J., by John A. Gillespie, of Glenolden, Pa., was found dead by Mr. Gillespie, near Brigantine, N. J., on August 3, 1930. The point of recovery is about 35 miles north of the point of banding.

White-throated sparrow No. 696253, banded at Mathiston, Miss., on March 11, 1929, by Miss Ethel B. Finster, was retrapped by her at Asheville, N. C., on January 5, 1930. Miss Finster comments upon the seeming improbability of this record but is confident that she made no mistake. The Survey has decided that the record is valid although it is admitted that such returns are never likely to be numerous.

Blue-winged teal No. 531961, banded at Ellinwood, Kans., on May 4, 1929, by F. W. Robl, was shot 6 miles from Elia, Camaguey, Cuba, about August 19, 1930.

Common tern No. A326822, banded on July 6, 1929, at Chatham, Mass., by Chas. B. Floyd, was shot at Point Fortin, Trinidad, B. W. I., on July 4, 1930.

Common tern No. A327151, banded at Chatham, Mass., on July 6, 1929, by Chas. B. Floyd, was shot at Port of Spain, Trinidad, B. W. I., in May, 1930.

Coot No. A634740, banded at Irvington, Calif., on January 26, 1930, by Nion R. Tucker, was shot at Fort Vermilion, Little Red River Post, Alberta, on July 20, 1930.

Common tern No. A347027, banded at Weepecket Island, Mass., on July 12, 1929, by Mrs. Ethel M. Crowell, was killed at Caiguire, near Cumana, Sucre, Venezuela, on July 1, 1930.