

LESSER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE BANDED ON LONG ISLAND, N. Y.

By Leroy Wilcox

On January 12, 1961, I succeeded in trapping and banding a Lesser White-fronted Goose (*Anser erythropus*) from Europe at Islip, L. I., N. Y. I understand this is the first record for this species for North America.

It first appeared on October 2, 1960 on the 500 acre estate of Mr. Charles D. Webster, in company with nine Canada Geese. They came there almost daily, usually in the morning, to graze on the grass along a stream until October 22, when the gunning season opened on wild geese. The Canada Geese did not return after October 22 but the White-fronted Goose came back to feed along this stream. After a couple of days it located a small pond about 1000 feet west of this stream on this same estate, where wing-clipped Canada Geese, Toulouse Geese and about 50 free-flying Mallards came in daily to feed on grain. At first it was rather shy on the pond and remained at a distance while the caretaker fed them about 8:00 am. and again in late afternoon. But by the end of the gunning season (Jan. 7, 1961) it had settled down and became quite tame. I had tried to trap it in a trap six feet square and four feet high baited with corn from October 4 to October 22 while it was still grazing along the stream but it would not go into the trap.

The trap was taken over to the pond on November 25 and baited with corn to get the goose accustomed to it. Inasmuch as this pond is only one-half mile north of Great South Bay, where there were gunners, it was thought best to delay the actual trapping until after the close of the gunning season. I started trapping in earnest on January 10 but had no luck from 8:00 am. to noon. Again on January 11 I had no luck from 8:00 to 11:00 but the New York Times reporter secured photographs for a story in case I succeeded in trapping it. On January 12 from 8:00 to 10:00 am. it did not venture into the trap although all the other geese were feeding on the grain in the trap on all three days. Finally at 10:00 am. it went into the trap after the other geese had eaten. After trapping it was photographed, measured, and banded with band no. 637-60681. (- and appears on the cover of this issue. -Ed.)

Spokenk, Long Island, N. Y.

RECOVERIES FROM BURLINGTON, VERMONT

By Normand St. Jacques

(Some of Mr. St. Jacques' recent recoveries were listed in the Jan-Feb 1961 issue; Evening Grosbeak recoveries are listed below. -Ed.)

24-125304 Banded March 17, 1956, found dead September 28, 1957 at Quebec, Canada.

- 54-199959 Banded March 11, 1956, trapped and released May 14, 1958 at Huntsville, Ontario, Canada by Russel J. Rutter.
- 24-125392 Banded April 26, 1956, trapped and released January 13, 1958 at South Londonderry, Vermont, by Mrs. James R. Downs.
- 55-128178 Banded February 2, 1959, trapped and released March 23, 1959 at South Londonderry, Vermont, by Mrs. James R. Downs.
- 55-128154 Banded February 5, 1959, flew into window May 2, 1960, at Ontario, Canada.
- 55-128157 Banded February 6, 1959, trapped and released February 6, 1960 at Laurel, Maryland, by Chandler S. Robbins.
- 55-128179 Banded February 7, 1959, found dead, crashed into fence, April 17, 1960, at Richmond, Virginia.
- 56-135352 Banded February 8, 1959, trapped and released January 14, 1960 at Ontario, Canada, by R. Wright.
- 56-135508 Banded February 13, 1959, trapped and released February 23, 1959 at South Londonderry, Vt., by Mrs. James R. Downs.
- 56-135463 Banded February 13, 1959, found dead on highway February 1, 1960, at Nova Scotia, Canada.
- 56-179814 Banded February 18, 1959, trapped and released March 11, 1959, at Mascoma, N. H., by Louis B. Johnston.
- 56-179878 Banded February 20, 1959, found dead in road November 21, 1959 at Livermore, Maine.
- 56-179894 Banded February 20, 1959, trapped and released December 22, 1959, at Wolfeboro, N. H., by R.G. Carpenter.
- 56-135563 Banded February 20, 1959, trapped and released April 15, 1960, at Wolfeboro, N. H., by R.G. Carpenter.
- 57-193256 Banded February 23, 1959, died by flying into telephone wire, April 1, 1960, at New Gloucester, Maine.
- 57-193424 Banded February 24, 1959, killed by cat March 7, 1960, at Ontario, Canada.
- 57-193417 Banded February 24, 1959, trapped and released January 24, 1960, at Annapolis, Maryland, by Capt. J.E.M. Wood.
- 58-100144 Banded January 26, 1960, trapped and released January 31, 1960 at Bethel, Vermont, by Miss Virginia F. Perkins.
- 58-100074 Banded January 23, 1960, trapped and released February 8, 1960 at Adams, Mass., by Miss Frances Brierley.

I have listed the recoveries which I thought would be of the most interest to EBBA NEWS readers. I banded 199 Evening Grosbeaks in 1956, and had one recovery the same year. I banded no Evening Grosbeaks in 1957 and 1958, but in 1957 I had 35 recoveries and in 1958, 15 recoveries, of birds banded in 1956. In 1959 I banded 763 Evening Grosbeaks, and had five more recoveries from the 1956 birds; and in 1960 I had 25 additional recoveries. Up to the present I have banded 1,179 Evening Grosbeaks, and have had over 80 recoveries, and more are coming in: my percentage of recovery on this species is about 7%.

Among other species, I have banded 2,300 Ring-billed Gulls, and have had over 100 recoveries, a recovery rate of about 4.4 per cent. Of over 1,000 Herring Gulls banded, 55 have been recovered - a rate of 5.5 per cent. The gull recoveries represent, of course, birds found dead in most cases, whereas many of the Evening Grosbeaks were trapped and released. This may account to some extent for the difference in percentage of recovery.

One Evening Grosbeak, which I banded on February 18, 1959, was trapped and released by Mrs. James R. Downs of South Londonderry, Vermont on February 8, 1961. This bird, after it was banded, repeated 25 times during the month, and 13 times in one day. After it had repeated four or five times, it apparently learned to trip the lever of the trap purposely, in order to feed in privacy in the trap. One time he was caught with another male, and almost pecked it to death - that bird had to be nursed back to health before it was released!

Another Evening Grosbeak, banded on March 20, 1956, returned to my station at Burlington on January 8, 1957, and then was trapped and released by James Baird at New Brunswick, Canada, on June 10, 1957.

An Evening Grosbeak which I banded on January 26, 1960, was trapped four days later, January 30, at Bethel Vermont by Miss Virginia Perkins - a distance of about 55 air miles, to the southeast. South Londonderry, Vermont, where Mrs. Downs has recovered a number of my Grosbeaks, is about 93 miles from Burlington.

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(The author has written an article on his gull banding experiences, which will appear in a subsequent issue. -Ed.)

NOTES FROM PEQUANNOCK

Mrs. Marie Dumont, of Pequannock, N.J. writes, "We have been noticing that some of our common birds are getting set for housekeeping. For the past three weeks I have found that the Starlings - at least a good many of them - have changed to breeding plumage and are getting ready for nest building. I had a call from a friend nearby that they have seen Starlings taking nesting material through a hole caused by a rotting board in a roof overhang. The House Sparrows are inspecting the bird houses and the Blue Jays are going through court-ing antics.

"Evening Grosbeaks have been rather scarce in this area this winter, but we have had such birds wintering as Brown Thrashers, Robins, Catbirds, Meadowlarks, Towhees and Song Sparrows. Whitethroats haven't been too plentiful around my station, but Tree Sparrows were abundant. I banded 426 in 1960; and as far as Blue Jays are concerned, I had plenty - banded 151 last year."
