

On November 2, I was up bright and early to make good my threat to put all my first allotment of bands on birds the first day. About 6:30 A. M. I saw the nuthatch go to a feed table in a dead prune tree near the back of the house. It started near the ground and went up to the table, but a Gambel Sparrow had beaten it to that trap. It was not seen again until about noon, when it was caught in the trap on the grevillea tree soon after the trap had been moved there from another location. It was given band no. A-14369, and the accompanying photographs were taken with a no. 1 Kodak and portrait lens while the bird was inside a cage having one glass side.

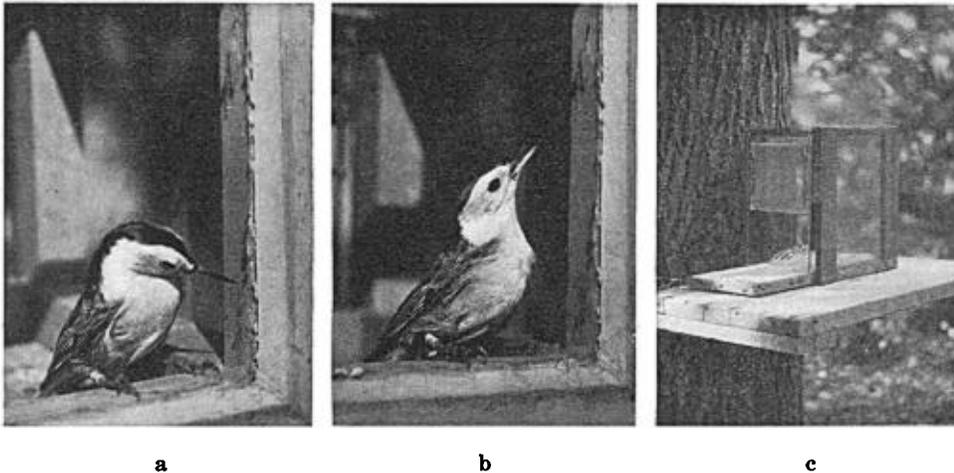


Fig. 15. a, b, SLENDER-BILLED NUTHATCH (A 14369) BANDED AT PASADENA, CALIFORNIA. PHOTOGRAPHED THROUGH GLASS FRONT OF CAGE. c, TREE TRAP IN WHICH NUTHATCH WAS CAUGHT.

This bird was not seen or heard for several days, and we feared that something might have happened to it; but on the morning of November 11, soon after daybreak, we heard it again. A few minutes later I put sunflower seeds on the shelf on the grevillea tree. While there I saw the nuthatch 10 or 15 feet above me and by the time I had backed away 30 feet it had come down and taken a sunflower seed away. I wanted to see that the band was not hurting it, so set the trap and in a few minutes the bird was in it. It was a sensible little bird and did not lose its head while in the trap or while being banded, and seemed to know where it was going every time it made a move.

The only other time I have seen a Slender-billed Nuthatch at this station was on October 10, 1919.—HAROLD MICHENER, *Pasadena, California, November 26, 1924.*

The Sprot Trap.—In the Canadian Field Naturalist¹ for September, 1924, Mr. G. D. Sprot describes a trap with a detachable funnel which should be a great success, and is very simple to make. When idle it is a low box of screen with a wide opening on one side, through which birds come and go at will. For trapping, a funnel made to fit the opening is shoved into place.

It occurs to me that if, in lieu of the funnel, one used a shutter door (as described for the Vest-pocket Trap, Condor, vol. xxvi, 1924, p. 198) supported by a stick to which is attached a pull string, he should be able to overcome the hesitation of the most refractory robin, thrush, or fox sparrow. The shutter door need not interfere with the use of the funnel when desired.

Returns at Stations in Southern California.—"To November 1" for this report, allowed little over a month for the returning *Zonotrichiae* to register, and the time given for banders to send in their lists was too short. But it was well, in both cases,

¹ Ottawa, Canada. Send 20 cents for the September number.

since several active stations have not reported and the list of returns had half doubled by November 15 at the stations here included. A full report would have been too long for our space.

There is, perhaps, no thrill more pleasing to a bander than the recovery of a banded bird which has returned after a long migration round trip. The publication of these returns has a definite stimulative value to the banding fraternity. It carries promise of similar successes, and good-natured rivalry tends to enliven interest.

Obviously, publication of long lists of returns makes poor reading when unaccompanied by local facts of analytical bearing. There is no question, however, about the high value of returns in quantity in such analyses as we hope will develop about the work of each station. And these *Zonotrichia* groups, so prominent in western reports, because of the abundance of individuals and the ease with which they can be trapped, offer splendid material for such quantitative studies. No opportunity should be lost to band them and recapture them in quantity.

California, Imperial County, Brawley		John C. Fortiner
Banding operations began in the spring of 1924.		
<i>Zonotrichia leucophrys</i> , subsp.		(40 were banded the first season.)
	First season	Second season
127285	1924, Mar. 20.	1924, Oct. 30.
California, Los Angeles County, Claremont		Wright M. Pierce
Banding operations began in February, 1924.		
<i>Carpodacus m. frontalis</i>		(49 were banded the first season.)
52243	ad. ♀ 1924, Feb. 23.	1924, Oct. 5.
<i>Melospiza m. cooperi</i>		(10 were banded the first season.)
52225	ad. 1924, Feb. 20.	1924, Oct. 25.
96456	ad. 1924, Apr. 16, 17.	1924, Oct. 6, 27.
96475	ad. 1924, Apr. 21.	1924, Oct. 25.
<i>Pipilo c. senicula</i>		(12 were banded the first season.)
76571	ad. 1924, Mar. 15.	1924, Oct. 4, 5.
<i>Zonotrichia leucophrys</i> , subsp.		(259 were banded the first season.)
52190	ad. 1924, Mar. 19.	1924, Oct. 22.
52232	im. 1924, Feb. 21, Apr. 16.	1924, Oct. 7, 13.
52235	im. 1924, Feb. 21, Mar. 20.	1924, Oct. 7.
52237	ad. 1924, Feb. 23, Mar. 11 (twice), 27, Apr. 12, 17.	1924, Oct. 27.
52242	im. 1924, Feb. 23, Mar. 6, 21.	1924, Oct. 21.
52258	im. 1924, Mar. 21.	1924, Oct. 28.
52264	ad. 1924, Mar. 21.	1924, Oct. 17.
59993	im. 1924, Feb. 15.	1924, Oct. 13.
59997	ad. 1924, Feb. 15, Mar. 21.	1924, Oct. 22.
76572	ad. 1924, Mar. 17.	1924, Oct. 19.
77399	im. 1924, Mar. 15.	1924, Oct. 3, 9, 23, 30.
80028	im. 1924, Feb. 27.	1924, Oct. 13.
80034	im. 1924, Feb. 27, Mar. 23, 27, 29.	1924, Oct. 23.
80038	im. 1924, Feb. 29.	1924, Oct. 6, 13.
80040	im. 1924, Feb. 29.	1924, Oct. 21.
93029	im. 1924, Mar. 11, 19.	1924, Oct. 21 (twice).
93034	im. 1924, Mar. 11, 27.	1924, Oct. 21.
95139	ad. 1924, Mar. 27.	1924, Oct. 21.
95179	ad. 1924, Mar. 30.	1924, Oct. 25, 27.
95188	im. 1924, Mar. 30.	1924, Oct. 16.
96443	ad. 1924, Apr. 15.	1924, Oct. 8.
96459	ad. 1924, Apr. 17.	1924, Oct. 14.

California, Los Angeles County, Glendora

Clifford H. Wood

Banding operations began in December, 1923.

<i>Zonotrichia coronata</i>		(30 were banded the first season.)
120667	1923, Dec. 6.	1924, Oct. 12.
120668	1923, Dec. 6.	1924, Oct. 6.*
120669	1923, Dec. 7.	1924, Oct. 24.
120674	1923, Dec. 8.	1924, Oct. 15.
120675	1923, Dec. 8.	1924, Oct. 21.
120694	1924, Feb. 23.	1924, Oct. 12.
120698	1924, Mar. 2.	1924, Oct. 27.
120700	1924, Mar. 4.	1924, Oct. 16, 22.*
<i>Zonotrichia leucophrys</i> , subsp.		(70 were banded the first season.)
86647	1924, Jan. 8.	1924, Oct. 9.
86656	1924, Jan. 23.	1924, Oct. 21.
86657	1924, Jan. 23.	1924, Oct. 9.
92061	1924, Mar. 14.	1924, Oct. 16.*

* Retaken a block away at the station of Mrs. Alice A. Shelton.

California, Orange County, Buena Park

John McB. Robertson

Banding operations were begun in October, 1923.

<i>Zonotrichia leucophrys</i> , subsp.		(153 were banded the first season.)
85332	1923, Oct. 25, 28, Nov. 11; 1924, Feb. 24.	1924, Oct. 23.
85348	1923, Nov. 3.	1924, Oct. 26.
119383	1923, Oct. 21; 1924, Feb. 17, Mar. 17.	1924, Oct. 30.
119389	1923, Oct. 23, 28; 1924, Feb. 13.	1924, Oct. 23.
122750	1923, Nov. 25; 1924, Jan. 13.	1924, Oct. 31.
122772	1924, Jan. 20, Mar. 9, 23, Apr. 14.	1924, Oct. 28.
122773	1924, Feb. 10, Mar. 2, 3, 9 (twice), 16, Apr. 16, 17, 19 (twice).	1924, Oct. 10, 20, 26.
122779	1924, Feb. 13.	1924, Oct. 12.
122782	1924, Feb. 14, Mar. 3, 16, Apr. 6, 16.	1924, Oct. 26.
125469	1924, Feb. 24, Apr. 6.	1924, Oct. 31.
125480	1924, Mar. 16.	1924, Oct. 14.
129029	1924, Mar. 30, Apr. 6.	1924, Oct. 26.

The First Government Report on Returns from Banded Birds.—Under date of October 16, 1924, the Biological Survey distributed "Returns from Banded Birds, 1920 to 1923."¹ Compiled by F. C. Lincoln, who has charge of the bird banding work and records in the Survey, this 55-page bulletin purports to tabulate, in systematic form, all returns reported from the time the Survey took over this work in 1920 up to June 30, 1923. Included as "returns" are (1) birds which have returned a season later to the station where they were banded, (2) birds taken at another station, and (3) "repeats" by birds found dead. A brief history of the banding movement, an outline of the regional organizations, and eight pictures of improved traps in operation, preface the tabulations.

Mr. Lincoln's plan of presentation makes reference easy, with the birds arranged in A. O. U. Check-List order and with the states and the banders in each state in alphabetical order. The tables, published so that coöperators may use the available information, "are presented without discussion," since "the material will permit a wide range of interpretation . . . for different species," influenced by "ecological, meteorological, and other factors that demand full consideration."

¹ Department Bulletin no. 1268, U. S. Dept. Agr. It can be purchased of the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C., for 10 cents.