

Phœbes, etc., possess this habit. Among Song Sparrows, Catbirds, and Purple Finches there are numerous cases where birds have returned a second time, fifteen Purple Finches having done so at one station, showing in the case of this species that doing so is not a matter of accident.

The extent of remating among birds is another phase of banding work to which banders should give much attention, for results of importance have already been secured along this line. In occasional instances among Chipping Sparrows and Catbirds it has been shown that birds remain mated for at least two successive seasons. How wide-spread this practice is among birds remains to be determined. The homing instinct certainly tends to bring mated birds of one nesting-season to the same locality another season with the result that remating becomes easily possible.

The above two lines of investigation, namely (1) how nearly universal is the habit of "returning" among birds; and (2) to what extent do birds remate, are especially commended to our members.

C. L. W.

#### GENERAL NOTES

**Experiences in Banding Hummingbirds.**—During the past three years several Hummingbirds have been banded by Miss L. M. Brown and me at my cottage in Shelburne, Coös County, New Hampshire. Miss Brown, a nurse, who is a member of my home, has been especially interested and active in this work. The first occasion was on August 1, 1923, when Professor E. Emerton, who has a cottage not far from mine, appeared one day, saying, "Want to band a Hummingbird?" He had one entirely concealed in his hand, except for the bill. The bird, a female, was found buzzing like a bee on the window pane in his shed and was easily picked off. We took the smallest sized band, trimmed it as much as possible, and put it on 75193. The bird on being released shot off with its usual speed.

I thought at the time and still think that the band was too large, even when trimmed, but I was told from Washington that there wasn't enough demand for smaller bands to make it pay. The toes of the bird are very tender and soft. A repeat or a return is necessary to solve the question.

After that we constructed a small trap about a foot and a half each way of a simple frame of sticks covered with gauze, the front hinged. A table, just the height of the piazza railing on which it has been my custom for a few years to keep one or more tumblers of sweetened water, was set against the railing, and on this was the trap. The glass, which was put directly in front of the trap, was moved farther and farther in as the birds got used to it. Then the lid which was held up by hand, was closed, and the bird was caught. It was readily taken out by inserting the hand through a slit in the screened top.

In this way two females were caught and banded. They are 84712 August 29th, and 84718, August 31st, 1923.

In 1924 two more Hummingbirds were banded, one, a male, 87061, brought to me on July 21st by Robert Clark, nephew of Professor Emerton. The bird was caught on the window-pane in the shed by placing a milk-bottle over it. The other, a female, 87985 was caught July 10, 1924, in the same place by Professor Emerton and brought to me.

Since 1915 we have been feeding Hummingbirds with sweetened water, and as early as May 21st, when no flowers were seen, they have been seen drinking from the tumblers. The latest one recorded was August 31st. Rarely has the male Hummingbird been seen drinking.

Near the end of July, 1925, on account of illness, the sugared water had not been replenished for a few days, and had been getting very low. Miss Brown found on visiting the spot to replenish the glass that a female Hummingbird was in the bottom of the tumbler, thoroughly saturated with the sticky solution, and unable to move. It was motionless, the bill and head upright against the glass. The bird was taken out and laid on the railing. It could not fly, and soon rolled off on to the nasturtium bed below. It was then taken and lathed several times in warm water, till freed of all the syrup. When laid on the open band, and apparently perfectly still, one could feel the vibration of the wings throughout. The bird was laid on the table in the sun, covered with a wire strainer, and dried, and then it was taken out and released. After it had lain a while in the open palm, it suddenly flew vigorously away, and alighted on a perch of the near-by elm. This bird was not banded. We thought it had undergone enough excitement. To all appearance it was one of the two females that had been feeding all summer.

Of our two female Hummingbirds one has always hovered over the glass, and the other has alighted on the edge of the tumbler. Many friends have never seen a Hummingbird alight, and this has been an added pleasure.

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**Banding Hummingbirds.**—I banded my first Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*) on August 3, 1924. It was caught in my hand inside the window. I have no trap suitable for taking this species, and nothing was further from my thought than being able to take them. Later several others were captured inside the house and banded, seven in all during 1924, the last one on August 28th. They were attracted by small pill-bottles hung outside the window, filled with a strong solution of sugar and water, covered with turkey red cloth. All seven were young birds with one exception. As a rule they remained very quiet in my hand while being banded, but one squeaked like a mouse. No T bands were used, but they were reduced in size by clipping, even to cutting away a portion of the figures.

This year (1925) early in July an adult female came inside the window, but I liberated it unbanded, as, for the moment, no suitable band was ready. On July 29th, August 14th, 14th, and 15th four others were banded, all immature. No returns have been taken, much to my regret.

It has been suggested that it would be quite easy to construct a suitable pull string trap for taking these birds, using flowers or my present artificial means of attracting them, by making a light frame of bamboo and lining it with cotton mosquito netting. The experiment is worth trying, although I doubt if it will prove successful. ELEANOR S. MORGAN, Asticou, Northeast Harbor, Maine.