

returns of 59 banded are reported. Mary E. F. Hubbard later, in Vol. III, No. 1, p. 10, mentions eight returns of 119 banded, and Miss Cora M. Teot is mentioned on the same page as having no returns of 54 White-throated Sparrows banded.

As, according to Wetmore (*The migration of Birds*, 1926, page 55), neither a head or tail wind is favorable for birds during migration but a quartering wind is a better air-movement condition, it seems possible that the observed yearly variation in migration-routes of the smaller birds may be due to quartering flight, limited in the territory of the Northeastern Bird-Banding Association by coast-lines and other natural features.—E. C. HOFFMAN, 1041 Forest Cliff Drive, Lakewood, Ohio.

A White-breasted Nuthatch Recovery.—White-breasted Nuthatch, No. A23071 banded by Mrs. A. G. Mathers, at Middleboro, Massachusetts, on February 22, 1926, was caught by a cat at St. George, New Brunswick, on April 23, 1926. See account in the *Canadian Field-Naturalist*, Vol. XXI, October, 1927, page 171. We believe this to be the first record giving any details of the migration route of this species in the East.

Wintering White-breasted Nuthatches.—During the winter of 1926-27, Mr. Reginald A. Osborn, of Hingham, Massachusetts, had a male and female White-breasted Nuthatch come to his banding-station, one of which, the male, he banded. This winter the banded male is again at the station, and, as before, with an unbanded female, perhaps the same bird of last winter.

The habit of two birds of this species of opposite sex keeping together throughout the winter is very pronounced, and in all cases known to me where opportunity has permitted observation wintering pairs have invariably been found to be of opposite sex.—C. L. W.

A White-throated Sparrow Return-4.—At our banding-station in Cohasset, Mass., a single White-throat, No. 37603, banded Nov. 11, 1923, is again for the fifth consecutive season passing the winter with us, and now the bird is at least five and one half years old. The bird each winter lives in a certain section of the thick cover within twenty feet of one of the traps in which it is annually captured. The arrival and departures dates, so far as we know them, are Nov. 1-15th and May 1-15th. The bird now wears a red band, which enables me to keep a sight record of its frequent visits to the station with ease and accuracy.—KATHARINE C. HARDING.

Attention, Banders!—Banders are asked to pay careful attention to the ages of birds they handle, as determined by repeats and returns. Mr. John T. Nichols, of the American Museum of Natural History, 77th Street and Central Park West, New York City, has published in the *Bulletin* of this Association a preliminary paper on "The Age of Banded Birds," (Vol. III, No. 3, July, 1927), in which he has collected from several sources

birds' age records. In Canada, Miss M. Y. Lafranchise, c/o Canadian National Parks, Ottawa, Canada, is preparing a statement concerning the ages of Canadian birds as revealed by banding, for the April, 1928, *Bulletin*. We feel sure that both Mr. Nichols and Miss Lafranchise will be glad to have all members send them appropriate age-records from time to time to be used in preparing future articles on the subject.—EDITORS.

The matter of assembling for the *Bulletin* the records of all species which return to their nesting grounds to breed is important. The Secretary of this Association, Mr. Charles B. Floyd, will take up this work and he will appreciate having members send him promptly any exceptional return records which may come to their attention, with full details of banding and returning dates, sex, age, when banded, etc.

Young Great Black-backed Gulls.—The two recently hatched Great Black-backed Gulls (*Larus marinus*) shown on the cover were banded by Mr. Oliver L. Austin, Jr., on Red Islands, Turnevik, Labrador, during July, 1927, when they were about seven days old.

Reprints of the Bulletin.—Contributors desiring reprints or separates of their articles may procure the same by writing the editor before the *Bulletin* goes to press. Articles of four to six printed pages suitably bound with the title and the name of the author printed on the cover may be had for \$5.50 for fifty copies. Any number of copies can be supplied.

Another Song Sparrow Recovery.—Song Sparrow B10541, banded by Helen G. Whittle in Peterboro, New Hampshire, October 2, 1927, was killed by R. G. Cook at Hopkins, South Carolina, about December 30, 1927. Hopkins is near the center of the state. This recovery is the second one reported from her station, the first one being a Purple Finch shot in Texas.

Another New England Song Sparrow recovery has been reported from this region by Wendell P. Smith. The bird was banded in Wells River, Vermont, October 13, 1925 and was killed at Wadesboro, North Carolina, March 2, 1927 (see the *Bulletin*, Vol. III, No. 2, 1927, p. 48).