

ears, but they recall to me three delightful days spent in the company of Laurence B. Fletcher and fifteen thousand terns.¹

INFORMATION DESIRED REGARDING
BIRDS OF PREY

IN the Second Bulletin of the International Committee for Bird Preservation Dr. T. Gilbert Pearson prints the following summary of the remarks of Dr. Einar Lönnberg, a delegate from Sweden to the conference which was held at Geneva, Switzerland, May 21-22, 1928:

“Dr. Lönnberg states that the returns from Hawks banded in Sweden have shown a large percentage of them killed during the period of migration. For example, of the Hen Harrier [a species closely related to our Marsh Hawk] he says, ‘Three score were banded as young; not less than 18 of these have been killed by man and reported. Thus as far as is known the relative death was 30 per cent.’

“Of 56 Common Buzzards [closely related to our Red-tailed and Red-shouldered Hawks] banded in southern Sweden bands have been returned from 10, giving known death rate 17.8 per cent. Of the Eastern Buzzard 9 were banded, 4 returned, known death rate 44 per cent. Of 23 Rough-legged Buzzards [congener of our Rough-legged Hawk] banded 2 bands were returned. Of the Honey Buzzard 27 were banded and 7 rings reported, making known death rate 26 per cent. Fifteen Ospreys banded; 4 returns; making death rate 26.6 per cent. Peregrine Falcon [like our Duck Hawk] 15 banded; 4 returns; making death rate 26.6 per cent. Of 24 specimens of the Kestrel [related to our Sparrow Hawk] banded only 2 bands have been returned. In all, during 7 years, 270 birds of prey belonging to 11 species have been ringed in Sweden and of these not less than 60 have been reported as killed. This is 22 per cent of the total.’

“Dr. Lönnberg makes the point that these records tend to show a very large killing of the Swedish birds of prey, and urges international action to preserve these interesting and in most cases useful birds.”

In the *Bulletin of the Northeastern Bird-Banding Association*

¹ The Common and Roseate Terns banded by Tyler and Fletcher referred to in this article numbered approximately three thousand. The bands were placed from July 4 to 16, 1929.—EDITH.

for October, 1927, Albert A. Cross of Huntington, Massachusetts, in reporting the return of a Broad-winged Hawk, remarks that this bird made a total of eleven recoveries out of forty-five hawks banded near Huntington. This is a known death-rate of 24.4 per cent for seven species. Analyzed, his recoveries show the death-rate of Sparrow Hawks as 50 per cent; Duck Hawks 44.4 per cent; Red-tailed Hawks 33.3 per cent; Sharpshinned Hawks 20 per cent; Cooper's Hawks 14.4 per cent; Broad-winged Hawks 14.4 per cent; Red-shouldered Hawks 10 per cent. Dr. Edward G. Rowland, formerly of Belchertown, Massachusetts, reported to me a known death-rate of 20 per cent from ten Hawks of three species which he had banded.

These figures are certainly very suggestive, though the total number of hawks banded is small. We have not at hand definite figures on many other species of birds but the recoveries of Black-crowned Night Herons banded at Barnstable, Massachusetts, amounted to only about three per cent over a period of several years, and the recoveries of terns banded at Chatham totalled about the same.

We are anxious to collect more complete data on the subject of the rate of death of our North American birds of prey and therefore ask all readers of this BULLETIN to cooperate by sending to us a summary of their activities in the banding of these birds. This summary should contain, for each species, the name of the species, whether banded as an adult or nestling, the place and date of banding, and, in the case of recoveries, the place and date of the recovery and any details which are known as to the manner of recovery. Any additional data on the food of these birds will be greatly appreciated, such as the bait used when these birds have been trapped, or the nature of their prey when positively known. Any such information will be gladly acknowledged if sent to the following address.

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