

"Well, we had at least forty Chickadees at the feeders during December 1953. During the past two weeks, however, the number has declined to about ten; we are much disturbed and perplexed. I don't see how predation could eliminate 75% of our Chickadees. I suspect an epidemic, particularly since there has been a reduction of the number of Chickadees at a feeding station four miles east of us.

"I wonder whether other banders have had similar experiences."

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MORE ON CHICKADEES: COINCIDENCE OR CONNUBIAL?

Paired Chickadees:

- 1) 20-26377 - trapped together and banded, December 17, 1950;
378 retrapped together, March 22, 1951.
- 2) 21-33958 - trapped together and banded, December 1, 1952;
retrapped together, February 28, 1953.

--Maurice Broun

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A NEW WAY OF GETTING RETURNS

This is from Mr. W. A. Jarvis, Pemberton, New Jersey, who wrote on April 7, 1953:

"Thought you might be interested in three somewhat unusual recoveries which we had at our banding station recently.

"On March 27th, we had a visit from a Loggerhead Shrike. Three small birds were in one of our large traps, and the Shrike did not hesitate to dive in after them. Before we could do anything about it, the Shrike had killed all three of the other occupants.

"One of the occupants was an unbanded Tree Sparrow. Another was a Field Sparrow which had been banded here April 19, 1952, by Dr. Paul H. Fluck who was at that time operating a sub-station at our farm. The third bird was a Tree Sparrow that we had banded on December 27, 1952.

"Naturally, we were quite disturbed at having a killer in the immediate vicinity of our banding station, so the culprit was banded and placed in a one-cell carrying cage to be held overnight and released at some distant point the following day. This detention resulted in a third return because, on the following morning, we found that the Shrike had disgorged the leg of a small bird with the band still attached. This proved to have been a Field Sparrow which we had banded December 18, 1952.

"We must admit the temptation to wring the Shrike's neck rather than ring his leg was pretty strong, but we released him about fifteen miles away in the pine woods country with the fervent hope that we would not see him or any other member of his family again!"

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CONCERNING DICKCISSELS AND PILEATED WOODPECKERS

Marie Dumont (Mrs. G. A. Dumont, Sr.), 311 Pompton Turnpike, Pequannock, New Jersey, has this to say in a letter dated June 1, 1953:

"On April 19th (1953), a female Dickcissel was taken in a false-bottom trap at our station at the above address. To say that I got a thrill is putting it mildly! Then, on May 20th, I trapped a Bicknell's Thrush. While we have trapped several before, none was as late as this.

Furthermore, the thrush seems to be staying around and has entered the traps three times since the 20th. Just had a sight repeat this morning. I will try to keep a close check on it.

"Another interesting thing is that there is a pair of Pileated Woodpeckers which have been seen by my sons and their families all during the winter and spring. Since I live about one and one half miles from their homes, I haven't seen the birds myself, but I have seen the holes they drilled in their trees. I should mention that the homes of both my sons are located in heavily wooded areas in mountainous country - one in Lincoln Park, the other in Pompton Plains, New Jersey.

"We believe that it is the same pair of birds at both places since their homes, while several miles apart, are directly across a valley from one another. My son in Pompton Plains believes they may be nesting on or near his property."

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