birds as returns.

This season finds me with an all-purpose trap replacing the flat traps and with much more success. All the regular 'year-round' birds and the new migrants have taken the change as a matter of course, but not the Cowbirds.

The Cowbirds not only sit in the trees and stare at the new trap but will constantly drop to the ground where the old traps were and look for food which was there in the past. They never venture toward the feed and the new trap. This has been going on for a week now (March 15), and only one, so far, has attempted to enter the trap.

As an experiment, I placed one of the flat traps in its old location and baited it with bread and corn. Within five minutes, I had captured one new and three old birds. The three returns were also repeaters the first year, proving they certainly were not strangers to my station.

Is it instinct or coincidence that makes them return to the same area and look for food on the very spot it was found previously?

Perhaps other banders with more experience than I can explain this. --Barnegat Pines, Forked River, New Jersey

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A REPORT OF BIRD BANDING IN THE VICINITY OF TOKYO, JAPAN

by H. Elliott McClure*

Bird banding in Japan is not done on the scale that it is in America. There are no volunteer banders; instead, the few birds that are ringed are done so by government officials with specific problems in mind. This has greatly limited the numbers and kinds of birds that are being marked, hence the amount of material that is accruing is extremely sketchy.

Literally millions of birds are caught each year by commercial

*Note: This article appeared in the January 1955 issue of News from the Bird Banders, organ of the Western Bird-Banding Association, and is reproduced herewith by permission of the Editor, Mr. Russell H. Pray, 662 Santa Rosa Ave., Berkeley 7, California. Before accepting his present position, Dr. McClure, also an EBBA member, banded over 10,000 birds while he was living in Bakersfield, California.

netters, but when the Game Management Divison was approached on the matter of utilizing these netters for banding information, they were not interested. If even a small percentage of the take were banded and released, valuable information would be forthcoming.

Although the average Japanese is interested in birds as pets, objects of art, and food, his economic level is such that only a chosen few could give the time or money to banding that the average American bander does. One rarely sees feeding stations, not because the people do not enjoy birds, but because the food cannot be spared by the family.

Finally, bird banding in Japan seems to have little future because of the political situation. Many summer residents migrate south to the Philippines or Formosa, and as far as Java. Japan is the winter home of many species from Siberia and Manchuria. Other migrants pass through the Japanese Archipelago on their north and south trek. The outlook that bands would be returned from the various 'curtain' countries bordering Japan is hardly very hopeful.

SPECIES	1952	1953	1954	TOTAL
Great Egret		4	150	154
Plumed Egret	104	81	296	481
Little Egret	156	127	211	494
Black-crowned Night Heron	176	198	304	678
Cattle Egret		1	21	22
Japanese Cormorant		16		16
Blue Magpie		37	147	184
TOTAL	436	464	1,129	2,029

Fig. 1: Birds Banded at a Heronry near Tokyo, Japan

In spite of these problems we have been banding as many individuals as possible of the species related to our studies of Japanese B encephalitis. In 1952 we began a study of a heronry near Tokyo and have continued observations each year since. In 1953 we expanded our program to include a cormorant colony and a region where Blue Magpies nested. Table 1 presents a list of the species and number which we have marked.

Of these 2,029 marked birds we have had two recoveries, both within ten miles of the place of banding; one was a Little Egret and the other a Night Heron.

The Great Egret (Egretta alba) resembles our Great White Heron (Ardea occidentalis) in size and action but has black instead of yellow feet and legs. It is a resident species all the year but is much more common during summer. The Plumed Egret (Egretta intermedia) is the American Egret of the Orient. In Japan, it is an abundant summer resident. The smallest of the egrets, the Little Egret (Egretta garzetta), would probably be indistinguishabel in the field from the Snowy Egret (Leucophoyx thula). It is a common permanent resident. The Cattle Egret (Bubulcus ibis), which has only in recent years become established in North America, is uncommon in the Tokyo area. It reaches its northernmost distribution in Honshu. The ubiquitous circumpolar Black-crowned Night Heron (Nycticorax nycticorax) is the same as in America. The Japanese Cormorant (Phalacrocorax carbo) resembles the Double-crested Cormorant (Phalacrocorax auritus) with which we are familiar except that during breeding season its head and neck are nearly white. Most beautiful to the American eye would be the Blue Magpie (Cyanopica cyanus) which is powder blue and gray with a shining black skull cap and which has no counterpart in the American fauna unless it would be the Magpie (Pica pica). --Dept. of Virus and Rickettsial Diseases, 406th Medical General Laboratory, APO 500, San Francisco, California

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COMMENTS ON THE JANUARY-FEBRUARY ISSUE
by Dr. Charles H. Blake

I can find points of interest in the January-February EBBA News. Mr. Bowdish and I seem to have had very similar experience with the jay. A few years ago there appeared to be one jay around which learned to extract nestlings from nest boxes, but it is the only bad actor I have encountered.

I have had the same feeling about juncos that Ray Middleton has. One of mine banded in late October was found dead in South Carolina about six weeks later.

I would certainly agree with Mr. Parks on band sizes for purple finches. In my report on the band sizes I found that the leg size is such that almost exactly half the birds would take 0 and half 1. Only about one bird in 400 would need a 1B band to have the clearances that I used in making the computations. Using size 1 bands for such birds would do no real harm in most cases. (See BIRD-BANDING, Vol. 25, pages 13 and 15.) --Dept. of Biology, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge 39, Mass.

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