

RECOVERIES OF BRONZED GRACKLES AND STARLINGS BANNED
AT MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, BY OLIVER F. IRWIN

(Note: The following material is adapted from data submitted by Mr. Oliver F. Irwin, 1789 Glenview Ave., Memphis, Tenn., under date of March 7, 1955. The labor of preparing maps and tables took considerable time and effort, but the Editor feels that the results will be of interest to EBBA members.)

Mr. Irwin writes: "I am assisting Ben B. Coffey, Jr., in banding by ground trapping (with 5 Glenhaven 6-cell traps) Bronzed Grackles and Starlings. At times I am able to band all day while working in an office at home. The station is in a crowded suburban subdivision with many huge oaks, elms, and evergreens.

Year	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Total
51-52	26	3			2				9	72	171	51	334
52-53	2	13	38	28	7		52		402	464	144	28	1,178
53-54				11	7	2	5	87	252	500	792	135	1,791
54-55	6	16	9	22	7		10	12	92	270	* 57	*	501
Total	34	32	47	61	23	2	67	99	755	1,306	1,164	214	3,804

*None banded after 3-6-1955

TABLE 1: MONTHLY RECORD OF BRONZED GRACKLES
BANDED AT MEMPHIS, TENN.

"No roost banding was done at the quarter-million bird roost at Elmwood Park in a huge magnolia grove 2 miles west of the station (that had moved from a willow-brake on the Mississippi River), but it was searched for roost casualties bearing bands without success. Two of my birds were found dead under such circumstances last year by others.

"To date I have banded 3,804 Bronzed Grackles and 1680 Starlings, using white bread for bait."

TABLE 2: RECOVERY RECORDS FOR BRONZED GRACKLES
BANDED AT MEMPHIS, TENN.

(Note: An asterisk preceding date of capture indicates that the date given refers to a letter dated this date.)

Date Banded	Date Taken	Where Taken Town	State	How Taken
5-10-51	10-21-51	Tyronza	Ark.	Shot
7-5-52	11-21-52	Wesson	Miss.	Caught in feed house
7-21-52	12-20-52	Holden	La.	Killed
11-17-52	Feb. 1953	Jayess	Miss.	Killed
11-26-52	*1-21-54	Port Allen	La.	"
11-23-52	*5-22-54	Kansas City	Mo.	Found dead
11-15-52	5-2-54	Benton	Ill.	Found
1-23-53	2-6-54	De Queen	Ark.	Caught, band removed
1-23-53	4-2-54	Stuttgart	Ark.	Found
1-18-53	5-12-53	Marianna	Ark.	Killed
1-18-53	6-1-54	Mooring	Tenn.	Taken from cat
1-27-53	*5-8-53	Edina	Mo.	Found
1-25-53	*4-10-53	Randall	Iowa	Shot
1-20-53	6-20-53	Wyndmere	N.Dak.	"
1-20-53	3-28-53	Boyd	Minn.	"
1-23-53	7-1-53	Maple Lake	Minn.	"
1-2-54	1-12-54	Batesville	Miss.	"
2-21-52	5-20-52	Atlanta	Ohio	"
2-14-53	2-11-54	Greenville	Miss	Killed
2-17-53	3-10-53	Osceola	Ark.	Found dead
2-16-53	2-28-54	Shawneetown	Ill.	Shot
2-19-53	Apr. 1954	Modesto	Ill.	Killed
2-6-53	3-10-54	Wheaton	Ill.	Found dead
2-16-53	9-30-53	Des Moines	Iowa	Shot
2-22-53	*5-1-53	Gilman	Iowa	"
2-5-54	4-4-54	Sikeston	Mo.	"
2-12-54	4-13-54	Orchard Farm	Mo.	Taken
2-14-54	Oct. 1954	Kirksville	Mo.	Shot
2-16-54	5-26-54	Walthena	Kan.	Found dead

(Continued)

3-15-52	4-27-52	Mineral Wells	Miss.	Shot
3-19-52	2-14-53	Bunkie	La.	Killed
3-5-52	4-4-54	Evansville	Ind.	"
3-12-52	5-1-53	Posen	Mich.	Found dead
3-10-53	Aug. 1953	Quincy	Ill.	Shot
3-23-54	*11-23-54	Little Rock	Ark.	Found, wing broken
3-3-54	*7-11-54	Raymond	Ill.	Shot on farm
3-16-54	5-1-54	West York	Ill.	Found
3-5-54	4-21-54	Farmersburg	Ind.	Found dead
3-14-54	10-6-54	Williamsburg	Iowa	"
3-8-54	8-18-54	Ames	Iowa	Shot
3-19-54	*8-28-54	Mason City	Iowa	Found
3-19-54	9-12-54	Mason City	Iowa	"
3-14-54	5-30-54	White Lake	S.Dak.	Shot
3-2-54	*6-10-54	Watertown	Wis.	Alive in yard
4-11-52	1-3-54	Winnsboro	La.	Trapped
4-2-54	7-20-54	Mt. Olive	Ill.	Shot

PART I: Bronzed Grackles. Of the total of 3,804 birds banded, there have been recorded 46 recoveries as of March, 1955. Obviously, it is to be expected that there will be many more recoveries of these birds with the passage of time, especially for the recently banded individuals which have not had sufficient time to be recovered.

In addition to the 46 recoveries, i.e., birds found dead more than a few miles from the banding station, 17 more were found dead locally. It is interesting to note that there were but 2 returns and 18 repeats recorded, quite striking in view of the large number of birds involved, yet not unexpected for this species.

It might be noted, parenthetically, that Mr. Irwin reports that a Grackle, banded 9-6-47 in Cincinnati, Ohio (bander not given), was trapped and released by him at Memphis, Tenn., 3-5-52.

An examination of Fig. 1 shows that the recovery records are rather uniformly distributed along the Mississippi River and its tributaries. Only one record, that from northern Michigan, is not within this river system; it also should be noted that the Ohio River and eastern tributaries are not as well represented as the western ones.

Table 1 presents a picture of the banding by months of the year. The Winter months of January, February, and March account for about 90% of the Grackles banded.

Table 2 gives data on the 46 recovery records; the records have been arranged by month of banding. Analysis of the relationship between the month of banding and the place of recovery suggests certain conclusions about the different populations of birds present at

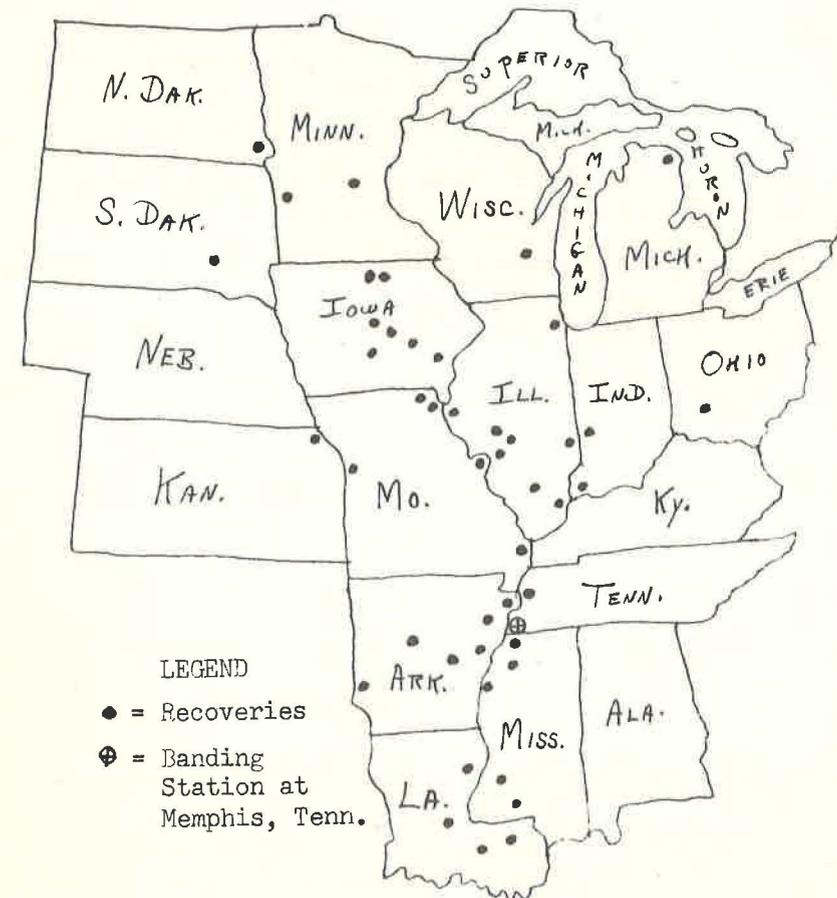


Fig. 1: Distribution of Recoveries of Bronzed Grackles Banded at Memphis, Tenn.

Memphis during different parts of the year.

The birds banded during May and June would seem to be Summer residents, The few Fall and Winter recoveries are from south of Memphis.

The November birds would appear to be transients, with Winter records as far south as Louisiana and Summer recoveries from the North, in Missouri and Illinois.

The January birds seem to be composed of both local birds, for there are Summer recoveries of them from adjacent areas, yet at the same time, others banded at this time have been taken as far north as North Dakota and Minnesota. The February, March, and April appear to be predominantly transients banded on their northward passage. It is possible, however, that many of these have wintered in the Memphis area rather than having been farther south.

PART II: Starlings. Of the 1,680 birds banded, there have been 20 recoveries as well as 5 found dead locally. There are but 4 returns and 4 repeats, but this, as in the Grackles, is not unexpected.

Figure 2 shows the geographic distribution of the recoveries for

Year	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Total
50-51								154	113	107			374
51-52	1				1	2	8	4	18	33	2	2	71
52-53	7	6	4	13	7	3	11	2	135	46	3		237
53-54					1	9	73	174	358	191	16	2	824
54-55	4	6	9	10			8	29	66	39	* 3 *		174
Total	12	12	13	23	9	14	100	363	690	416	34	4	1,680

*None banded after 3-6-1955

TABLE 3: MONTHLY RECORD OF STARLINGS BANDED AT MEMPHIS, TENN.

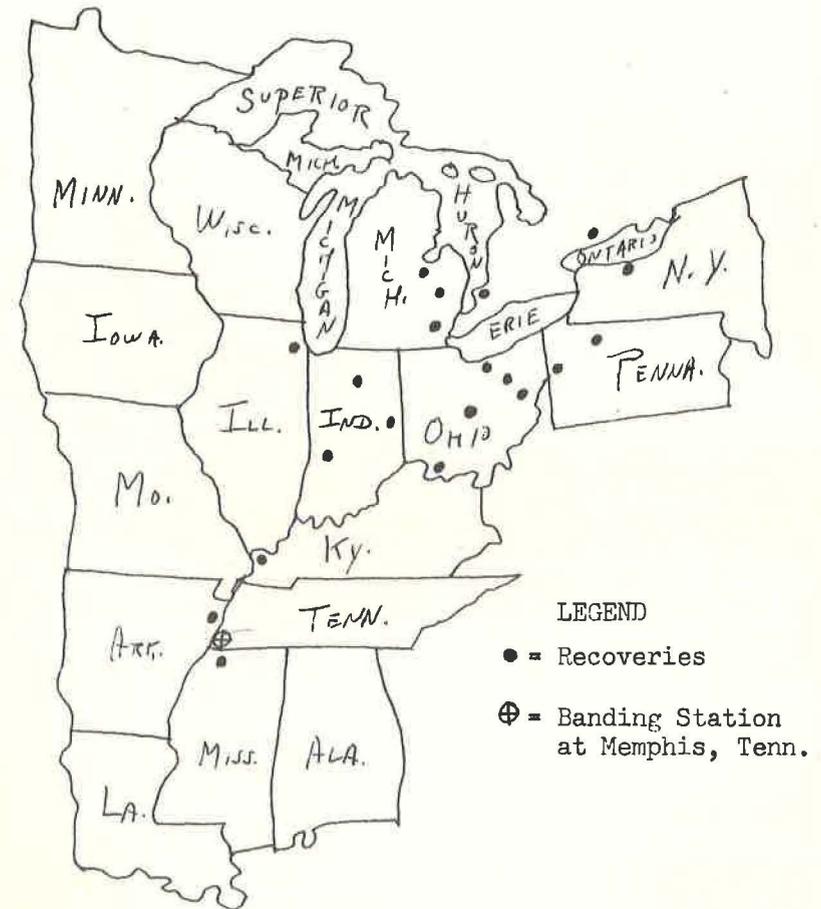


Fig. 2: Distribution of Recoveries of Starlings Banded at Memphis, Tenn.

this species, and these recoveries present quite a contrast to those for the Grackle in that they tend to be in a northeastward direction from the place of banding rather than in a more fan-like distribution. In addition, there is evidence of an extension beyond the drainage area of the Ohio River branch of the larger Mississippi River system, as shown by the records from Michigan, Ontario, and New York.

(Continued on page 80)

581 <small>AOU NO.</small> Song Sparrow <small>COMMON NAME</small> Melospiza melodia <small>SCIENTIFIC NAME</small> Number of new banded birds on this sheet: <u>140</u>	UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE PATUXENT RESEARCH REFUGE LAUREL, MD.	Albert E. Conway 5383 <small>COOPERATOR OR UNIT U. S. PERMIT NO.</small> Route 1 <small>STREET ADDRESS OR NAME OF UNIT LEADER</small> Easton Penna. <small>CITY STATE OR PROVINCE</small>							
STATION LOCATIONS (town, county, state), operator, type of trap, bait, remarks, etc.									
(A) Easton, Northampton County, Penna. (4040-7512)									
(B) Raubsville, Northampton County, Penna. (4037-7513)									
(C)									
<small>BAND NO. (Series-number)</small>	<small>AGE</small>	<small>SEX</small>	<small>DATE BANDED (Month, day, year)</small>	<small>SUBSTATION (Locality, remarks, brood data)</small>	<small>BAND NO. (Series-number)</small>	<small>AGE</small>	<small>SEX</small>	<small>DATE BANDED (Month, day, year)</small>	<small>SUBSTATION (Locality, remarks, brood data)</small>
45-57128	A		5-6-1952	(A)	45-57197	I		8-14-1955	(A)
129	A		"		198	I		"	
130	A	F	6-12-1952		199	I		"	
131	N		"	(B)	200	A		"	
132	N		"	(A)	51-44501	A		5-2-1952	(B)
133	N		"		502	A		"	

Left: SAMPLE BANDING SCHEDULE

1. Note that the scientific name is given as a binomial rather than a trinomial; use subspecific name only if bird is actually identified subspecifically.
2. 140 is maximum number of birds which can be recorded individual when single spaced typing is used. However, if one bands a large number of, say, Chimney Swifts, under identical conditions, one can save space and time thusly:
 47-55001 A 9-18-1955 (A)
 to 764 A
3. The numbers in parentheses following substation locations are geographic coordinates used in coding the exact location. (See text, page 82)
4. Don't forget to indicate place of banding by appropriate letter in substation column since it may not be the same as permanent mailing address shown in upper right box.

Right: SAMPLE RETURN REPORT

1. Be sure to check A.O.U. numbers since they are the only means of designating the species on this form.
2. '99' under 'How Obtained' means trapped
 * * *

NOTE

A. O. U. numbers are given in the list of recommended band sizes which every bander receives from the Banding Office. Reference can also be made to the A.O.U. Check-list.

REPORT ON BANDING RETURNS												
Permit No.					Cooperator							
7120					June R. Conway							
					WHERE BANDED							
					Flyway	State	Latitude	Longitude				
					Province							
					Atl.	Penna.	4040	7512				
Band No.	AOU	Status	Age	Sex	Date Banded (Mo. Day Yr.)	Where Retaken				Date Retaken (Mo. Day Yr.)	How Obtained	No. Prev. Returns
						Fly.	St.	Lat.	Long.			
22-158940	394		A	F	Dec 19 1953	Atl.	Pa.	4040	7512	Nov 8 1954	99	0
45-57148	581		I		Jul 24 1952	"	"	"	"	May 7 1954	99	1

It is also of interest that there are no records east of the Appalachian Mountain front.

The northeastward trend indicated here bears an interesting similarity to the picture developed by the recoveries which the Reverend Garrett S. Detwiler has obtained for Starlings banded at Salem, New Jersey (EBBA NEWS, Jul-Aug 1955, pp. 52-53).

It should also be observed that, like Mr. Detwiler's birds, these

TABLE 4: RECOVERY RECORDS FOR STARLINGS
BANDED AT MEMPHIS, TENN.

See Page 83 re mist net

(Note: An asterisk preceding date of capture indicates that the date given refers to a letter dated this date.)

Date Banded	Date Taken	Where Taken		How Taken
		Town	State	
11-27-53	12-2-54	Portland	Ind.	Shot
12-11-50	12-13-50	Osceola	Ark.	"
12-22-53	*5-3-54	Olive Branch	Miss.	Killed
12-27-53	6-8-54	Mentone	Ind.	Found dead
12-29-53	3-20-54	Martville	N.Y.	Shot
1-29-51	8-9-51	Ypsilanti	Mich.	"
1-24-53	5-30-53	Bay City	Mich	"
1-18-53	5-23-53	Whitby	Ont.	Found dead
1-18-54	3-28-54	Sarnia	Ont.	Shot
1-3-54	10-25-54	Newark	Ohio	Taken from cat
1-4-54	5-25-54	Ridgeway	Pa.	Shot
1-11-54	*11-11-54	Canton	Ohio	Eaten by cat
1-23-54	3-16-54	Brilliant	Ohio	Flew into house; OK
1-3-54	4-18-54	Elba	Mich	Shot
2-3-51	1-12-52	Joy	Ky.	"
2-2-51	12-28-51	Lebanon	Ind.	Found dead
2-7-53	7-7-53	Medina	Ohio	Shot
2-6-53	5-6-54	Sharon	Pa.	Found dead
2-14-54	*11-22-54	Chicago	Ill.	Found dead in yard
2-11-54	7-5-54	Ripley	Ohio	Shot

have produced no recoveries any distance south of the point of banding. This is not true, however, in the case of the Bronzed Grackles.

Table 3 gives the banding by months. In contrast with the Grackles, the months of January, February, and March account for only about 68% of the bandings. Despite the fact that November and December accounted for about 28% of the Starlings banded, none of these birds seemed to have migrated farther south.

Table 4 gives data on the 20 recovery records, arranged in order of the month of banding. As in the case of the Grackles, actual band numbers were not submitted.

* * *

BANDING YEAR NOW ENDS DECEMBER 31

The Editor would like to remind banders that the banding year now coincides with the calendar year, and therefore ends December 31 for non-game species. Reports should be in the Banding Office no later than March 31, but it will help the office personnel if they are submitted as soon as possible after the close of the year.

Schedules for game birds should be received by the 10th of the month following banding; for colonial birds such as gulls, terns, skimmers, etc., schedules should be submitted promptly after the close of the banding season for nestlings.

In the preparation of schedules and other reports, the following points should be kept in mind. Not only will this review be of value to older banders (many still submit incorrect reports despite notice of changed procedure) but it prove especially helpful to new banders who may not have too clear an idea of what is expected of them. What follows is not intended to be a complete list of all the regulations for the preparation of various reports; rather it stresses certain items about which there has been confusion or which have been overlooked by a number of banders.

Figures 1 and 2 on pages 78 and 79 illustrate portions of a banding schedule and a station return report form, respectively. It should be noted that this latter return report form (Form 3-137B) replaces the IBM cards (Form 3-137). On this form should be recorded the recapture of a bird banded by yourself after an interval of 90 days since banding