

Purple Finch	0	1	1	-	-	-
Towhee	22	13	35	13	4	17
Song Sparrow	14	23	37	2	4	6
Lincoln's Sparrow	-	-	-	0	1	1

We thus have a total of birds banded in July-August, 1950, of 547; the same months of 1956 show 417, a falling off of 130. The total of species represented in these two months was for 1950, 31; for 1956, 19, a corresponding slump. It is significant that warbler representation in list of banding for 1950 showed six species; in 1956 only two; individuals in 1950: 30; in 1956: two. In the days of yore the Blue-winged Warbler was an abundant, unailing summer neighbor; not one has been seen or heard this year!

Song sparrows were once among our "highs"; as the current year's records show, in part, they hardly show in record; of the total six, four may have been the product of one secretive nesting pair? The large bulk of the species that made up our banding lists of the years ago, are, in greater or lesser degree, by data, examples of how fearful increase in genus Homo has been accompanied by shocking decrease in our avian fauna! Such species as do not definitely support "slump" records seem to be those which can most easily adapt themselves to total change. ★ ★ ★

#### THE RING

New International Bird-Banding Periodical  
A Review by John V. Dennis

*sent check  
10-29-56  
for  
subscription*

Readers of Ebba News will be interested to know that there is now a periodical on the international level devoted to bird banding. It is a quarterly publication known as The Ring. The Ring, now in its second year, is edited and published by Dr. W. Rydzewski, 1 Altyre Road, Croydon, Surrey, England. A year's subscription may be obtained by sending \$2.50 to Dr. Rydzewski. In this writer's opinion The Ring is not only worth getting, but should receive more notes, news, and short articles from this side of the Atlantic. The coverage is world wide, but until U. S. banders become more familiar with the publication, it will not be truly representative.

As examples of the kind of material finding its way into The Ring, I shall refer to the February and May 1956 issues. It would take too much space to mention all the reports from different countries and different bird banding stations. But considering present interest in the U.S.S.R., it is revealing to read that over 100,000 birds are currently being banded there each year. Banding is carried out chiefly on large nature reserves which in this country would be called wildlife refuges. These reserves are headquarters for a wide variety of scientific activities. One gains the impression from The Ring (and also from recent articles in The Ibis) that conservation and wildlife protection are well established in the Soviet Union.

Turning to Greenland, it is interesting to find that banding activity is subsidized by the State to the extent that a premium is paid for each bird banded and each bird recovered. Banding of sea eagles brings the highest reward, \$1.40 per bird. A recovery, regardless of the species, is worth 28¢. The recovery rate is high - 8.2%. Among the more startling migrational facts brought out by banding in Greenland is that Old Squaw migrate both eastward and westward; recoveries are as widely separated as the Baltic Sea and northwestern Canada near Alaska.

Anyone familiar with the recent migration literature of Europe knows of the significant work being done at the Ottenby Bird Station in Sweden. A short summary in The Ring tells us that this station was founded in 1945 and that it is supported by State funds. It has been manned every day since 1947, with few exceptions, during the period of June 1st to October 31st from about half an hour before sunrise to half an hour after sunset. As of November 1955 about 100,000 birds of 160 species had been banded. Of these about 20,000 were Dunlins (Red-backed Sandpipers). The overall recovery rate for birds banded at Ottenby is 1.35%. As much emphasis is put upon observation as banding. Major investigation relates to the influence of light and weather upon migration, the daily rhythm of migration, and daily and yearly variations in numbers.

Turning to just a few other eye-catching items in The Ring, we learn that certain Swiss banders prefer nylon Japanese mist nets to Italian nets. They are cheaper, easier to set up, and after a rain dry immediately. Many birds are caught in the open in full sunlight. A California bander describes how he manufactures his own hummingbird bands. A year's banding report for Britain reveals that one third of the birds banded were nestlings. Among longevity records there is one from Denmark

of a Herring Gull of 28 years. Among recoveries there is one of a least tern banded in Java and recovered on the Gold Coast of West Africa. Another outstanding recovery is that of a ruddy turnstone banded on Ellesmere Island, Canada, on July 5, 1955, and recovered on September 13 of the same year in Portugal.

In each issue under "recent literature" the editor lists the titles of numerous papers and includes several book reviews. Although the editor has access to most ornithological literature, he is anxious to have readers inform him regarding "papers based on or referring to bird ringing and published anywhere." \*\*\*

#### THE REDPOLL INCURSION OF MARCH-APRIL, 1956

By Elinor McEntee

Here is my Redpoll record:

March 21	First seen, none trapped	March 27	40 banded
" 22	54 banded	" 28	31 "
" 23	209 " in 5 hours	" 29	32 "
" 24	(not home - none trapped)	" 30	31 "
" 25	83 banded	" 31	31 "
" 26	24 "	April 2 to 9	24 banded
		Total banded 560	

The last big incursion of Redpolls in Ridgewood, New Jersey, was the winter of 1946-47, before I was banding, and I almost hope it will be another 8 or 9 years before they come again! It will probably take me that long to clean all the feathers and droppings out of my house. The day I banded the 209 we had to eat dinner out because the kitchen was so filthy!

They arrived at my station on March 21st, and on the 22nd I banded 54, which to me at the time seemed like a tremendous number. Little did I conceive what the next day would bring. Between 7 a.m. and noon 209 were trapped and banded - and I was about to collapse. There were still hundreds around, but I was unable to do any more banding (due to illness in the family) until March 25th when another 83 were banded. From then on the flock gradually decreased in numbers until their departure April 10.