

"Sister Pepper" Has Nothing on the Gillespies
By Mrs. John A. Gillespie

We had a famous letter, too, and not only did it concern a common tern but came from British Guiana.

In 1941 our common tern banding came to an end. At first this was because of the war, then because vacations took us to California, and perhaps the insidiously mounting years had their effect. Tern banding is rugged work.

Also, at that time, Frederick C. Schmid used to work with us frequently. Fred Schmid is now with the Fish and Wildlife Service at Laurel, Maryland. The term sub-permittee hadn't then been invented, but that's what he was. Fred banded some common terns on Bumpkin Island, Maine, on July 30, 1941. Among them was No. 41-246076, which turned up at Belmont, Maharca, British Guiana, on February 28, 1947. We sent a letter of inquiry to A. Jodah who reported the bird, and received the following reply.

"Sir: Your letter was Received and Contents was carefully read, by this you will know how the story goes, Myself and father while fishing the day dated as you know on sea one day catching fish, a lot of small fishes was on deck of our boat which we Catch, and these Sea Gulls was flying around light on our boat feeding on them, so I just take a piece of stick and fling it in the mids of them and I happened to hit one which was the said bird when I pick it up it was a great Supprize to see a ring like that on his foot I just show it to my father and he order me to wright to the address at once said we is going to get a reward and I did so I had the bird for a pretty three howers afther then he dies, that was the whole Story and I throw it away. That is your story and this is my Story

"Sir I have never know you but I now, first I dont like how you treat me by sending Envelop and Stamp to me for your answer without that you could get your answer lets forget that now here is the ring I Inclose in this letter and one of my photographs I glad to get pen pall from your Contry, and I hope you is one, I will asked you this one favor please put this address in youall daly paper for me, that Albert N. Jodah ...wanted of pen pal Interesting in Coin photograph and Magazine please do that for me and If you can send me a good camera I will be verry glad for they are scarce out here, what will be the caust please let me know I will send in Thanks hoping to hear from you soon, Yours Sincearley"

The photograph showed a handsome, imperious lad of sixteen, perhaps. He wore white shirt and trousers, but was bare-footed. He was sitting on a bridge fondling a white dog. We had to write him that

cameras were scarce here also (in those post-war years) but we sent him magazines. We never heard from him again. Maybe the lack of a reward was disappointing. Or perhaps the insult of the enclosed, stamped envelope rankled more and more, and the youth dismissed us as overbearing North Americans. The joke was on us not to have realized that United States stamps would be useless in a foreign country. ★ ★ ★

WHO IS BANDING THE MOST OF WHAT?

A few "toppers" head the list -- then warblers and a few others. In the next issue we shall list 1956 figures for sparrows and shore-birds.

ACU		TOPPERS	
514	Evening Grosbeak	G. Hapgood Parks, Hartford, Conn.	1050
		Mrs. Sara F. Hoyt, Etna, N. Y.	835
517	Purple Finch	Chandler S. Robbins, Laurel, Md.	505
529	Goldfinch	Seth H. Low, Gaithersburg, Md.	466
593	Cardinal	Leonard M. Llewellyn, Laurel, Md.	80
		WARBLERS	
636	Black and White	James Baird, Middletown, R. I.	40
647	Tennessee	Mrs. Charles E. Peterson, Madison, Minn.	46
		Stephen W. Simon, Monkton, Md.	25
650	Cape May	John V. Dennis, Nantucket, Mass.	122
654	Blackthroated Blue	Stephen W. Simon	18
655	Myrtle	James Baird	218
		W. M. Davidson, Orlando, Fla.	177
660	Bay-breasted	John V. Dennis	81
674	Ovenbird	Seth H. Low	47
		Frank P. Frazier, Montclair, N. J.	41
675	No. Water Thrush	Seth H. Low	62
		John V. Dennis	53
		James Baird	32
681	Yellowthroat	Seth H. Low	55
		James Baird	42
687	Redstart	Seth H. Low	111
		MISCELLANEOUS	
356	Peregrine Falcon	James N. Rice, Wayne, Penna.	34
704	Catbird	James Baird	282
		Mrs. Stanley Dickerson, Spotswood, N.J.	240
		Bennett K. Matlack, Bridgeton, N. J.	197
705	Brown Thrasher	Bennett K. Matlack	38
		Seth H. Low	37
		Frank P. Frazier	36