

## THIRTY YEARS OF BIRD BANDING

By Dr. C. Brooke Worth

In an article on "Ornithosis," appearing in Bird-Banding for April, 1957, I mentioned some of the "old-timers" in the banding conclave. In beginning the summary of my own 1957 banding activities, I suddenly realize that I have rounded off 30 years of banding activities and should therefore regard myself as an "old-timer," although in my innocence of the passage of time I can still scarcely regard myself as a candidate for this derogatory description. (My apologies, incidentally, to those whose ranks I have now joined.) To be sure, I am 49 years old, which in Dogpatch would have eliminated me from the Sadie Hawkins competition exactly  $33\frac{1}{2}$  years ago.

During these three decades of superannuation I have banded a total of only 5622 birds (exclusive of 1957). The most profitable year was 1929, my second year of banding, when my total was 1452, mostly starlings in a church tower in Wayne, Pa. There have been several years when I banded no birds at all, or only half a dozen or so, such as the year I was married, the year of my internship, my years in the Army during World War II, and my years overseas with the Rockefeller Foundation. During the latter period I even gave up my banding permit, since I thought absence would be more prolonged than it turned out to be. On my return, I re-applied for a permit, also requesting my old permit number, No, 3802, and the Fish and Wildlife Service, after digging through ancient records, were able to grant me this sentimental courtesy: I am once more Cooperator #3802.

While a mere 5622 birds banded in 30 years looks like nothing at all when compared with totals larger than this banded at some stations in a single year, my travels in North and Central America have resulted in the banding of a correspondingly greater number of species. For no scientific purpose, but wholly as a matter of incidental amateur interest, the list of these species is presented.

Common Loon	1	White-breasted Nuthatch	17
Red-legged Black Duck	1	Red-breasted Nuthatch	1
Man-o'-war Bird	1	Golden-crowned Kinglet	1
Colombian Booby	10	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	9
Brown Pelican	129	Eastern House Wren	21
American Egret	12	Western House Wren	8
Snowy Egret	6	Carolina Wren	2
Green Heron	10	Florida Wren	1
Black-Cr. Night Heron	21	Winter Wren	1
Black Vulture	1	Mockingbird	2
Marsh Hawk	1	Catbird	52
Cooper's Hawk	1	Brown Thrasher	17

Osprey	70	Eastern Robin	86
Desert Sparrow Hawk	3	Western Robin	6
Richardson's Grouse	2	Wood Thrush	8
Bob-white	8	Hermit Thrush	21
Oystercatcher	1	Olive-backed Thrush	21
Wilson's Plover	1	Gray-cheeked Thrush	1
Kildeer	9	Veery	1
Spotted Sandpiper	4	Mountain Bluebird	2
California Gull	99	Black and white Warbler	2
Least Tern	30	Northern Parula Warbler	1
Common Tern	527	Black-throated Blue W.	1
Black Skimmer	195	Northern Yellowthroat	10
Mourning Dove	13	Ovenbird	1
Great Horned Owl	1	Kentucky Warbler	1
Screech Owl	4	Macgillivray Warbler	4
Saw-whet Owl	1	Redstart	1
Florida Burrowing Owl	11	Scarlet Tanager	1
Red-shafted Flicker	16	Cowbird	9
Red-bellied Woodpecker	2	Meadowlark	6
Yellow-bellied Sap-skr.	1	Red-winged Blackbird	7
Hairy Woodpecker	2	Brewer's Blackbird	23
Downy Woodpecker	19	Purple Grackle	64
Chimney Swift	919	Cardinal	45
Kingbird	3	Florida Cardinal	4
Western Flycatcher	4	Painted Bunting	1
Eastern Phoebe	14	Lazule Bunting	4
Blue Jay	42	Purple Finch	1
Black-billed Magpie	10	Pine Siskin	1
American Crow	3	Goldfinch	1
Fish Crow	4	Red-eyed Towhee	15
European Starling	1441	White-eyed Towhee	10
Brown Creeper	1	Botteri's Sparrow	1
Tufted Titmouse	60	Savannah Sparrow	3
Black-capped Chickadee	15	Slate-colored Junco	629
Carolina Chickadee	11	Pink-sided Junco	5
Yellow-headed Tit	1	Tree Sparrow	27
Field Sparrow	1		
Chipping Sparrow	17		
White-throated Sparrow	480		
White-crowned Sparrow	2		
Lincoln's Sparrow	1		
Swamp Sparrow	12		
Song Sparrow	153		
Atlantic Song Sparrow	4		
Fox Sparrow	52		

Disregarding subspecies, I find that I have banded exactly 100 species of birds prior to 1957. My success with Laughing Gulls during the past summer (see EBBA NEWS "You Needn't Leave Your Traps Behind", Sept-Oct 1957) brings my species to 101.

I feel that there is a message of some value in a review of this report of minor banding activities over a rather extended period of time. Briefly it is this: Wherever you are, and whatever you do, keep on banding. There are almost always opportunities to band something. If you keep banding in mind, under diverse conditions, you will remain adaptable to the necessity of modifying your trapping approach in each new situation. This will aid you in avoiding the narrow approach of the "specialist," both locally and when you travel. You will attain greater proficiency both as a bander and as a naturalist in general.

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**GOLDFINCH FLOCKS** The returns recorded below are from two groups of Goldfinches, seeming to indicate that flocks stick together over an extended period of time.

Band No.	Age	Sex	Date Banded	Date Returned
25-49661	A	M	9/13/56	2/19/58
664	A	F	"	2/11/58
667	A	M	9/15/56	2/15/58
669	A	M	"	2/11/58
686	I	F	10/28/56	3/4/58
24-18453	A	M	3/24/56	1/17/58
471	A	M	4/10/56	1/14/58
477	F	F	4/17/56	1/17/58

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