

from which I quote: "At no time have we contemplated any action which would lead to the killing of birds. All of our efforts have been directed towards finding some way to keep the birds from coming to the airports, and to discourage birds from staying in the vicinity of airports. You may be sure that the entire problem is being approached with the idea that birds are a valuable natural asset and should be protected."

To date, therefore, we are unable to discover any sound reason for the Muskeget poison programs.

Summary

1. There is only a slight tendency toward late summer dispersal northward among birds of the year.
2. Migration destinations in the south appear much the same as noted by Bent forty years ago. With the exception of the gull recovered in Michigan there have been no inland recoveries. There is insufficient support for the theory that the migration route to the Texas coast for those gulls that winter there is across the Florida peninsula.
3. By far the greater number of recoveries occur among birds in their first year.
4. Recovery percentages and longevity records have gradually diminished during the past thirty years. No reasons for this are known.
5. The opportunity to continue this study of Herring Gulls through banding is jeopardized by a poison control program for which no sound reason has been discovered.

CONCLUSION. This one thing is sure: if we let any group unnecessarily jettison our attempts at banding research once, such barriers to banding results will happen much more easily in the future.

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B A N D I N G P L I E R S

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