



It is our purpose to make book and article reviews a regular feature of EBBA News, and Mrs. Gillespie has been kind enough to be willing to undertake the job of editing this section.

This book review section is not intended to cover the ornithological field, since other publications (notably Bird-Banding) are doing this, but to mention books and articles that may be of particular interest to banders.

The current plan is to review a newer and an older book on the same subject -- in this issue it will be migration. But we suspect that Mabel Gillespie will diverge from this plan from time to time and take us along with her where her many and varied interests lead.

We invite reviews from EBBA members of books or articles -- send them to Mrs. Gillespie at 313 Sharp Ave., Glenolden, Pa.

The Migrations of Birds. Jean Dorst, 1962, Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston, Mass. \$6.75

During a visit to the Sharon (Conn.) Audubon Nature Center last summer, I found this book in Stanley Quickwire's personal library. It was so fascinating that I commandeered it, and am still oozing enthusiasm over it.

Shortly thereafter my ego was considerably braced by the review of this book in Bird Banding by O. L. Austin, Jr. He calls it "the best source book on migration he has seen," and adds that it is a "'must' for the shelves of everyone the least bit interested in birds."

Banders are more than a little bit interested, and migration is one of their chief concerns. Here are some reasons why the book is invaluable for them.

1. It tells all that is known about migration to date. It is encyclopedic in scope and yet is encompasses within 450 pages. It includes an exhaustive bibliography.

2. It is easy to read. The author writes flowingly, yet concisely; and the translator is a master of English idiom.

3. It covers the world: land and sea. The objection might be raised that American banders don't need to know any of the details in the long chapter on "Migrations in Europe and Northern Asia." Yet the migration information has been largely acquired from banding records. The nature of these records and the theories they bolster must inevitably interest any bander. Personally I found the answers to questions that had long haunted me, and was fascinated by descriptions of the migration routes of certain species, particularly storks.

4. It makes nice distinctions between migrations, nomadic movements, and invasions, which banders are sure to appreciate.

5. It includes the various theories concerning phases of migration: what triggers the migratory urge; how birds orient themselves; how migration may have developed.

After starting to make a list of striking quotes, I found there would soon be a dozen pages or more. They will be drastically limited to three.

"Occasionally birds even fly for a time in a course diametrically away from their ultimate destination. The term migration routes applies to all sections of their flight."

"Although birds travelling along a migration front have a tendency to take certain paths, individuals are scattered everywhere. Distribution is influenced to a considerable degree by meteorological conditions, for in bad weather migrants tend to select the most favorable routes and in fine weather they disperse."

"There is no set migration route for an individual, and the bird seems to change course according to whim and prevailing conditions."

I like an authority who will permit the invasion of whimsy into science.

The Migrations of American Birds. Frederick C. Lincoln, 1939, Doubleday, Doran & Company, Inc.

As my enthusiasm over "The Migration of Birds" by Jean Dorst passed from the acute to a chronic state, I turned to another book on migration published nearly a quarter of a century ago. This is "The Migration of American Birds" by the late Frederick C. Lincoln. Dr. Lincoln was a Senior Biologist with the United States Department of Agriculture, Chief of the Section of the Distribution and Migration of Birds. In plain terms he was in charge of the Bird Banding Office from the time it was established in 1920 as a branch of the Biological Survey until he was succeeded by the late Seth Low in 1948.

Back in the old Biological Survey days life was less hectic than it is now. If a bander tagged several hundred birds a year, his name got on a LIST. There was, of course, the Austin Research Station banding thousands of birds; and there were a few independent banders like the Middletons and Peppers who ventured into the thousands, but most of us felt well pleased with our modest totals.

Dr. Lincoln not only managed the banding office, but found time to travel round the country visiting individual banders. My husband and I had the privilege of having him and Mrs. Lincoln as house guests and of taking them round to near by banding stations.

Furthermore Dr. Lincoln managed to write an authoritative book on migration, based on the data that accumulated in the banding files. He developed the concept of migration flyways. Subsequent studies have modified these concepts, particularly in the case of waterfowl, but we have come to make use of the flyway theory from a geographical standpoint in making our banding reports.

"The Migration of American Birds" first appeared in a limited edition between hard covers. It was generously illustrated: partly with some of the New York State Museum colored plates by Fuertes, which had no particular connection with the subject matter but added to the attractiveness of the book; and partly by maps of great interest. There are maps showing the major flyways; maps showing the migration routes of individual species such as the golden plover and arctic tern; maps showing isochronal migration lines of individual species; maps showing distribution and migration of individual species.

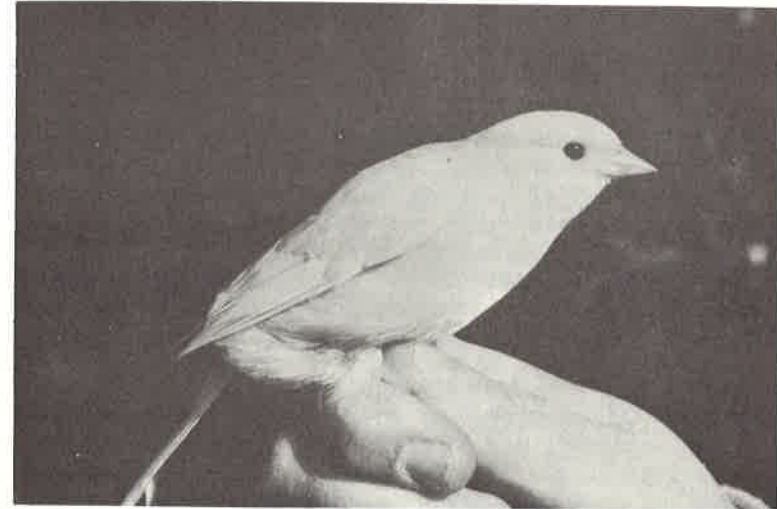
The first chapter titled "Historical" considers some of the early and quaint theories concerning migration, and ends with a brief survey of the growth of migration study in the United States which culminated in the establishment of the Bureau of Biological Survey, the forerunner of the present Fish and Wildlife Service. Various phases of migration are considered in subsequent chapters. The chapter on bird banding contains a list of individual banded birds "chosen as illustrating flights of unusual lengths, giving definite evidence of longevity, or of the homing instinct or including some other feature that marks them as outstanding additions to our knowledge of migration."

A pamphlet edition of this book was issued by the Government Printing Office as Circular 16 of the Fish and Wildlife Service, and it may be still possible to secure a copy by applying to the Superintendent of Documents.

When you consider that this book was published in 1939 before mist nets came into use, and that the amount of banding data has increased exceedingly since that date, you inevitably wish that an up-to-date survey of the migration of American birds might be made. It is my impression

that any such work that has been done has been largely concerned with game birds and waterfowl. Here is a made-to-order project for a doctor's thesis or a foundation research. Opportunity is knocking at someone's door.

-- Mabel Gillespie



"white Junco with dark eyes"

Mr. & Mrs. Charles (Chip & Chuck) Neel netted and banded the albino Junco pictured above during their 8 days at Island Beach Operation Recovery, October 12 to 19. They report that the band number was 106-94579 -- and hope that any member who should happen to capture it will get in touch with them.

Chip and Chuck Neel, incidentally, banded more than 2,000 birds during the 8 days they "vacationed" at IBOR, including the first Marsh Hawk and the first 5 Pine Siskins ever netted at IBOR.