

A TRIP TO JAMAICA

Arthur Fast of Arlington, Virginia, reports that he spent nearly all of this past February on the Island of Jamaica. Upon arrival, he contacted Mr. Lewis, Director of the Institute of Jamaica, the cultural center of the Island. The Institute, located in Kingston, has a master bird-banding permit from the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Island is an important wintering area for many of our birds, especially the Warblers; the Jamaica check list includes 24 species of Warblers which nest along our eastern seaboard. Some years ago, Dr. Charles Blake worked with the Institute in the banding and study of Jamaican birds. Mr. Roger Smith now heads a group of Britons and Americans, who are netting and banding on weekends and holidays; in February they were operating principally on a small stream near the Mona Hotel. Arthur participated in these banding operations on two occasions. The Mona Hotel is about 6 miles from Kingston, beautifully situated on a plateau, at an elevation of 6000 feet. There are other good birding areas nearby, such as the Hope Botanical Gardens. The Mona is a top rendezvous for birders visiting Jamaica.

An officer in the American Embassy, a Mr. Cumming, had 10 or 12 hummingbird feeders in his home yard. There Arthur saw, in considerable numbers, the three resident species of hummingbirds: The Streamertail, the Jamaican Mango and the Vervain Hummingbirds. Our Ruby-throat is an occasional winter visitor to Jamaica. Mr. Cumming said these birds ate or drank about two gallons per week.

A Mrs. Downer, who lives at Montego Bay on the northwest coast, bands only Indigo Buntings; she has one pull-string trap. In less than a month she had banded 54 of these birds by February 25. She says the peak of their migration is in late March. These birds come readily to her feeding trays. In contrast, Arthur says that in 18 years, he has caught one Indigo Bunting, in Arlington. Mrs. Downer took Arthur out 8 or 10 miles to visit Miss Lisa Salmon, who nets and bands birds on her home place, which is in the hills overlooking Montego Bay. He went out by taxi on another day. They netted and banded a few Warblers in an afternoon. In Jamaica, all bird-banding is done under the master permit of the Institute of Jamaica. An effort is being made to interest some Jamaicans in bird-banding.

Arthur reports a bird list for Jamaica of 81, including 15 of our Warblers, and 26 new life birds. Jamaica is not as rich in bird life as are continental tropical countries, or even several areas along our eastern seaboard. Along with the bird life of Jamaica should be considered: Its terrain, which is very rugged and mountainous (up to 7400 feet); its scenery which is superlative; and its weather which (in the lower elevations) is almost perfect for anyone who likes a warm weather break in the winter. At night, the cool air from the mountains flows down to the valleys and the seacoast. There are no cold spells. Nothing more than a summer jacket is needed at any time. It all adds up to a very attractive place in which to spend some time during our winter months.

Arthur H. Fast, 4924 Rock Spring Road, Arlington, Virginia

BOA W/BAND IN BELLY
By C. Brooke Worth

Dear Fellow Members Of EBBA:

Any of you guys have any of your banded birds knocked off by boa constrictors lately? If you had, I guess you'd brag about it and send a note to EBBA NEWS. And so would I. The fact is that we have boa constrictors here but also some smaller species. One of them is known as Cook's Tree Boa, and it is just about ordinary snake size. The other day one of our field workers picked up a young Cook's Tree Boa at our camp in Bush Bush Forest in Nariva Swamp. It had an obvious swelling indicating a recent meal. Our men have instructions to send all biological specimens to our laboratory in Port of Spain. The snake was hardly two feet long and was easily kept in a Mason jar. Today it disgorged its meal, and here was a half-digested bird with a band on its leg. It was too far decomposed to recognize, but the band proved it to be a House Wren that had been banded by me near the site of capture of the snake on Nov. 29, 1963. The wren had appeared once again in the net on January 2nd of this year. Thus it met its death slightly less than four months after banding. House Wrens in the tropics are considered by some authorities to be a distinct species from the North American one, but by others as a subspecies. Anyhow they look and sound like House Wrens, despite the fact that they can be found in clearings in the tropical forest. The Cook's Tree Boa is arboreal, as its name indicates, and also nocturnal. I imagine that it climbs about searching for roosting, sleeping birds. Wrens often sleep in cavities, but the snake could investigate these too. This boa has a nasty disposition, despite its small size, and will continue trying to bite even after being in captivity for months. In contrast, Boa constrictors become docile.

Well, Friends, at least it was a boa!

Post Office Box 164, Port of Spain, Trinidad, W. I.



WANTED -- BANDER-NATURALIST to fill post of Naturalist at the Nature Education Center. Full time work. Small salary to start which will be increased. Wonderful opportunity for bander who wants to make nature education a career, or for a retired teacher, or anyone with an interest in people, especially in children, and birds. College degree is desirable but not essential. Write: Director, Nature Education Center, Washington Crossing, Pa.

AN INCIDENT OF HERRING GULL BEHAVIOR
By Mabel Gillespie

During the summer of 1963, Grace Meloney and I decided we should try to band adult herring gulls as well as fledglings. We each invested in a stout net and visited the various open dumps on the island of Martha's Vineyard. We were unsuccessful for various reasons which need not be elaborated on.

Then we tried an experiment in capturing them in Ocean Park, Oak Bluffs. Here the road runs between the park and the edge of the bluff facing Nantucket Sound. The several acres of park are bordered on the other sides by rows of closely placed homes most of which are occupied only during the summer.

It is interesting to note the change in herring gull habits in September. A great exodus of summer residents comes early in the month. It seems as if the gulls had marked Labor Day on their calendars. With a regularity like that of Capistrano swallows they celebrate the Tuesday after Labor Day by an invasion of areas formerly occupied by human beings. They take over Ocean Park which has no trees, some formal gardens, and expanses of grass.

Just off the main road is a house occupied the year round whose occupant regularly puts out food for the gulls in the near corner of the park. Immediately some gull signal is given and flocks gather for the feast.

This seemed a good place to try for adult gulls, but we were in doubt as to how to plan our strategy. Wind is an almost constant factor on the Vineyard, and it was particularly strong in this area. It would be difficult to anchor poles securely enough to support the heavy net in the wind. And the net, in spite of its weight, would flap warningly.

Grace then made a suggestion which, at the time, seemed inspired. "Why," she said, "can't we spread the net on the ground covering the food. Then when the gulls come down maybe their feet will get entangled."

We concentrated the food, spread the net over the bits, and retired to watch. Twenty or more gulls promptly arrived and settled down on the net. At once they became suspicious and spread their wings for flight. As they rose the net, in which their feet were entangled, rose with them. With shouts of triumph we ran to band our victims. But our joy was short-lived. A few flips freed their feet and the net dropped to the ground.

We spread out the net again and brought more food. The gulls gathered in a solemn circle outside the net, but not one ventured near the food. Our "hostess" brought out more and daintier tidbits, and still no gull would put

foot on the net. Finally she produced a live and wriggling eel of medium size. This, she declared, would be sure temptation. The eel wriggled over the heavy meshes of the net and the gulls watched, but not one ventured over the edge. The eel grew weaker and finally died, and its remains adhered stickily to the net.

Eventually we got the eel remains scraped off the mesh and rolled up the net. No sooner had we left the park than the gulls swarmed over the food scattered on the grass.

In spite of the fact that the island population is largely bird-minded, it probably regards the two women banders as a bit crazy, but entertainingly so. The next time I went to the Oak Bluffs post office the clerk in attendance said, "What were you doing out in Ocean Park with a snake?"

313 Sharp Avenue, Glenolden, Pennsylvania



ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS TO MEMBERSHIP LIST IN MAR*APR- ISSUE
* - Sustaining Member

- *Allied Bird Co. Div. of Hartz Mtn. Corp., 36 Cooper Sq., New York 3, N. Y.
- Arentsen, H. F., Kribbestraat 41'', Amsterdam-Z, Holland
- *Childs, Henry E., 335 Pleasant St., Rumford 16, R. I.
- de Groot, H. J., Tugelaweg 75 a ', Amsterdam-Z, Holland
- *Fiske, John, Petersham, Mass.
- *Gardner, Geyrl L., Chestertown, Md.
- *Garland, Melvin, 36 Burke Ave., Towson 4, Md.
- Goldberg, M. G., 1915 Place Ave., St. Paul 5, Minn.
- *Harlow, Hugh E., 47 Scotland Rd., Reading, Mass.
- *Lerch, Malcolm J., R. D. 5, Penn Yan, N. Y.
- *Maynard, Sidney C. Jr., Greenbrier Military School, Lewisburg, West Va.
- *Mohr, Charles E., 1702 Greenbrier Drive, Kalamazoo, Mich.
- Nichols, Thomas Duncan, 4th Section, College of Wooster, Wooster, Ohio 44691
- Oldenhof, A., Riouwstraat 52 '', Amsterdam-Z, Holland
- Sanborn, Alvah W., Director, Pleasant Valley Wildlife Sanc., Lenox, Mass.
- *Scherer, Dept. of Microbiology, Cornell Univ. Medical College, 1300 York Ave., New York, N. Y.
- *Transue, Barrett, R. F. D., Mt. Bethel, Pa.
- Wagner, Donald, 624 North "D" Ave., Lompoc, Calif.
- *Weeks, Dr. Carnes, Hardshell Ceramics, Patagonia, Arizona
- *Willing, Mrs. E. Shippen, Jr., 13201 9th Ave. NW, Seattle, Washington
- *Wisner, Mrs. John F., 4436 Gratiot Ave., Port Huron, Mich.
- *Wykoff, Jack, Rt. 1, Dowling, Mich. 49050

PROGRESS OF THE WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW STUDY
By Ralph K. Bell

I want to thank all those banders that were kind enough to send me information on the White-crowned Sparrow from their respective areas. The response was heart warming and each year I am more convinced that banders are wonderful people. Some spent considerable time and effort preparing their reports and all contributors will be acknowledged when the report is published.

The data received will all be evaluated, but probably not before next winter when I hope there will be more time to really dig into it. But some things are already evident. The E. White-crown is most certainly enlarging its winter range over much of the eastern United States, as each year new areas are adding White-crowns to their Christmas census lists.

The breeding range of the E. White-crown comprises the Labrador Peninsula and thence westward across the southern half of Hudson Bay to its western shores. This information was kindly supplied by Ronald C. Clement of the National Audubon Society. There was some question as to the possibility of its breeding in northern Maine, and upon the advice of Mrs. James R. Downs, I wrote to Christopher M. Packard of the Portland Museum of Natural History, and he confirmed that it was purely a migrant in Maine.

Mr. Duvall, of the banding office, has been very helpful by sending me a list of all recoveries of the E. White-crown. These recoveries indicate the main wintering ground is in central Texas. While White-crowns are listed in greater numbers on the West-central Texas Christmas counts, my guess is that many of these are made up of migrants other than those from the Labrador-Hudson Bay breeding area. When I started this study, I thought perhaps the Ky.-Tenn. area was the main wintering ground, but now I know this is not true. A large percentage of the migrants continue on southwestward and cross the Mississippi.

I wrote to the man at Battle Harbor, Labrador that reported the recovery of the White-crown there, to ask if he could give me any information about the White-crown on its breeding grounds; such as arrival dates, departure dates, density of the species in that area, type and location of nests, number of eggs per nest, etc. To be sure we would be talking about the same bird, I sent him an excellent picture of the White-crown sent me by bander Raymond H. Bubb. The reply to my queries was very interesting, and I would like to share his letter with you - written in his words. Dear Mr. Bell: Today I received your letter regarding the White-crown. I will certainly gather what information I can about the White Crown and will send it along to you. My children are very interested in looking for and finding nests in the spring, and we will advise as to how many nests we find, the number of birds in each nest, how far apart they are, and so on.

I am afraid that we do not know the correct names of all the different birds that visit here each spring and fall. Of course we have names on them, but I don't imagine we have the right names. For instance we never heard of the White Crown being called anything but 'White Cap.' It would be nice to know the names of these birds then we could advise what we have. We have one which we call mud lark, another wagging tail, another ringer, another tom tit, and a lot more so you see you are not sure what we have unless we have the correct names. We have a few birds that stay around here all the year such as crow, sea gull, jay, and a few others. Do you have any of these your way. I guess the old crow is everywhere. Most ducks leave here in the spring and fly north except for a few that hang around in bays to build their nest and hatch out young. Yours truly, Doug.

I will write to him and ask that he advise the children not to destroy any nests or scare the young from the nests before they are ready to fly. Perhaps we may have another kind hearted man here like Monsieur Thomas Brousseau that G. Hapgood Parks wrote about. I am going to send him Peterson's Bird Guide and hope we gain another friend in the far north.

R. D. 1, Box 142, Clarksville, Greene County, Pennsylvania

WATCH FOR MARKED BIRDS!

From a letter to Allen Duvall from Dr. Telford H. Work. . . .

A further step in the investigation of migratory birds as potential disseminators of arboviruses was undertaken in March and April by a field and laboratory team from the Arbovirus Unit of the USPHS Communicable Disease Center in Atlanta, Georgia. With Walter P. Nickell of the Cranbrook Institute of Science as Consultant, the team, consisting of Rexford Lord, Herbert Maxfield, and Telford H. Work, set up initial operations in Stamm Creek Valley from March 14 to April 3.

White feathers were attached to the backs of 1052 birds, predominantly orchard orioles, catbirds, and indigo buntings, but including other species in small numbers.

On April 5, similar activity was initiated in the Delta Wildlife Refuge of Louisiana, where yellow feathers were used to mark 458 birds released.

One objective of the study is to make as many observations and/or recoveries of these marked birds in the United States as possible. If you observe any of these birds, your finding, including all the usual data on location, date, habitat, weather, etc., should be reported to the Arbovirus Unit, Communicable Disease Center, Atlanta, Georgia 30333 (telephone 404 634-5131). More important, if you learn of the whereabouts of a residential marked bird which might be investigated, immediate notification will be appreciated.

LONG TRIP FOR A TOWHEE
By Bob McCullough

All my banding is done on a mountain top in north-west New Jersey. I have lots of Rufous-sided Towhees.

In March of this year I received a recovery card for an immature female Rufous-sided Towhee from Jackson, Louisiana. It was banded in August, 1961. When I wrote to the address given I found that it had been shot by a child with an air gun in February, 1963. The map showed that it had travelled about fifteen hundred miles southwest and into flyway #2.

In May I began getting return Towhees, and among them were two birds banded on the same day as the one recovered, also immature birds at the time. This would not mean that they made the trip together and one didn't make it back, but it was interesting anyway.



They seem to be a good family bird. When one is caught they can set up quite a chorus of what sounds like alarm and protest. When one takes a bath they all take a bath, coming out of one point in the woods in a single line at spaced intervals to a little pond I have, as many as thirty I have counted. Both parents keep watch over the young ones, which are often perched motionless in the brush before they can fly well enough.

51 7th Ave. So.
New York 14, N.Y.



GOOD WILL AND UNDERSTANDING

By Mabel Warburton

Good will between bird banders and their neighbors, or any person who in any way becomes involved in your bird banding activities, cannot be over-stressed.

Much of the misunderstanding between bird banders and the public is due to the fact that the common man does not understand just what we are doing. It is surprising to us who are so intensely interested in our work to find persons who haven't the vaguest notion of what it is all about. Some bird banders are working to instruct the people, especially children, but many of us are doing nothing at all.

My problem was a neighborhood dog. He accompanied some children who cut through my woodland, and on several occasions got into my housetrap and killed birds. Telling the children what I was doing and how important it was to keep the dog out, seemed to have no effect. I called the neighbor on the telephone, but this seemed inadequate; she was only mildly interested, and seemed to think not much harm was being done by letting her dog roam.

Finally I hit upon the idea of sending her a letter. I wrote out all the interesting material about my bird banding station that I could think of: I told her when it was started; what its purpose was; how many birds I had banded; of how many species; and finally appealed to her to help me in this work by keeping her dog home. I pointed out that it was decidedly unfair for her dog to come into a place where I deliberately coaxed birds to come, and then destroy them.

In a few days she called and thanked me for the letter, and told me they had gotten rid of the dog. She seemed genuinely interested in what I had written her, and said they had not cared to keep the dog inside, nor to train it in any way, so had sent it out on a farm.

It may not always be this easy, but in this case, there was a happy ending for all.

~~EBBA~~

Note: Incidentally, the Pennsylvania bird bander has the law on his side; it is unlawful for ANY dog to run at large in this State, licensed or unlicensed. Although the enforcement is left up to each municipality, and is not often taken too seriously, it is the law.

300 West Trenton Ave., Morrisville, Pa.

OPERATION RECOVERY AT SANDY HOOK, NEW JERSEY - 1962

by Robert C. Frohling

Sandy Hook, New Jersey, offers a unique location for an Operation Recovery station. Whether one subscribes to the theory of broad-front movement of nocturnal migrants or the theory of channelization of these migrants down river valleys, along mountain-tops, etc., Sandy Hook would seem to be a natural place for birds to concentrate (Fig. 1). As a result of occupation by the U. S. Army for many decades, parts of the Hook have remained in an essentially natural condition. In July, 1962, the lower one-third of the isthmus was turned over to the State of New Jersey for administration as a public park.

Realizing the potentials of this area as an Operation Recovery station, I made application to the proper state authorities for permission to set up a netting project. After some hesitation because of the small size of the area involved, authorities granted permission for a limited "test" project. As will be noted further on, I now believe that this hesitation was justified.

The netting was done in a wooded tract of approximately 200 acres on the northeast shore of Spermacetti Cove. This section has been designated a "natural area" and is not open to the public. Ancient holly trees (*Ilex opaca*), some of them two feet in diameter, dominate the scene. An understory of smilax, poison ivy and other shrubs is almost impenetrable. Salt marsh vegetation sweeps in among the trees in several places. Along the cove are dunes covered with beach plum, poison ivy, and their ecologic associates. Before the state acquired the area, army bulldozers had cleared several lanes. In addition, the park naturalist had cut a trail through some of the heaviest growth. These openings were used as netting lanes.

Banding was started on the evening of September 13 and continued intermittently until October 13. A total of fifteen days or part days were spent on the project. On most days, the nets were in operation from dawn to dusk. The number of nets (standard 12 meter 1½" nets) in use varied but never exceeded six. During the first few days there was considerable shifting of nets until the best locations were determined.

A total of 552 individuals of 48 species were banded. There were no rarities nor species of unusual interest. Table 1 gives a numerical summary of the birds banded. The following species have been eliminated from the table to increase its readability. Only one individual (two where noted) of each was netting during the project - Sparrow Hawk (10/12), Mourning Dove (10/7), Whippoorwill (9/22), Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (9/29), Blue Jay (9/30), House Wren (9/23), Winter Wren (10/13), Parula Warbler (9/22), Cape May Warbler (10/7), Black-throated Blue Warbler - two (10/6),

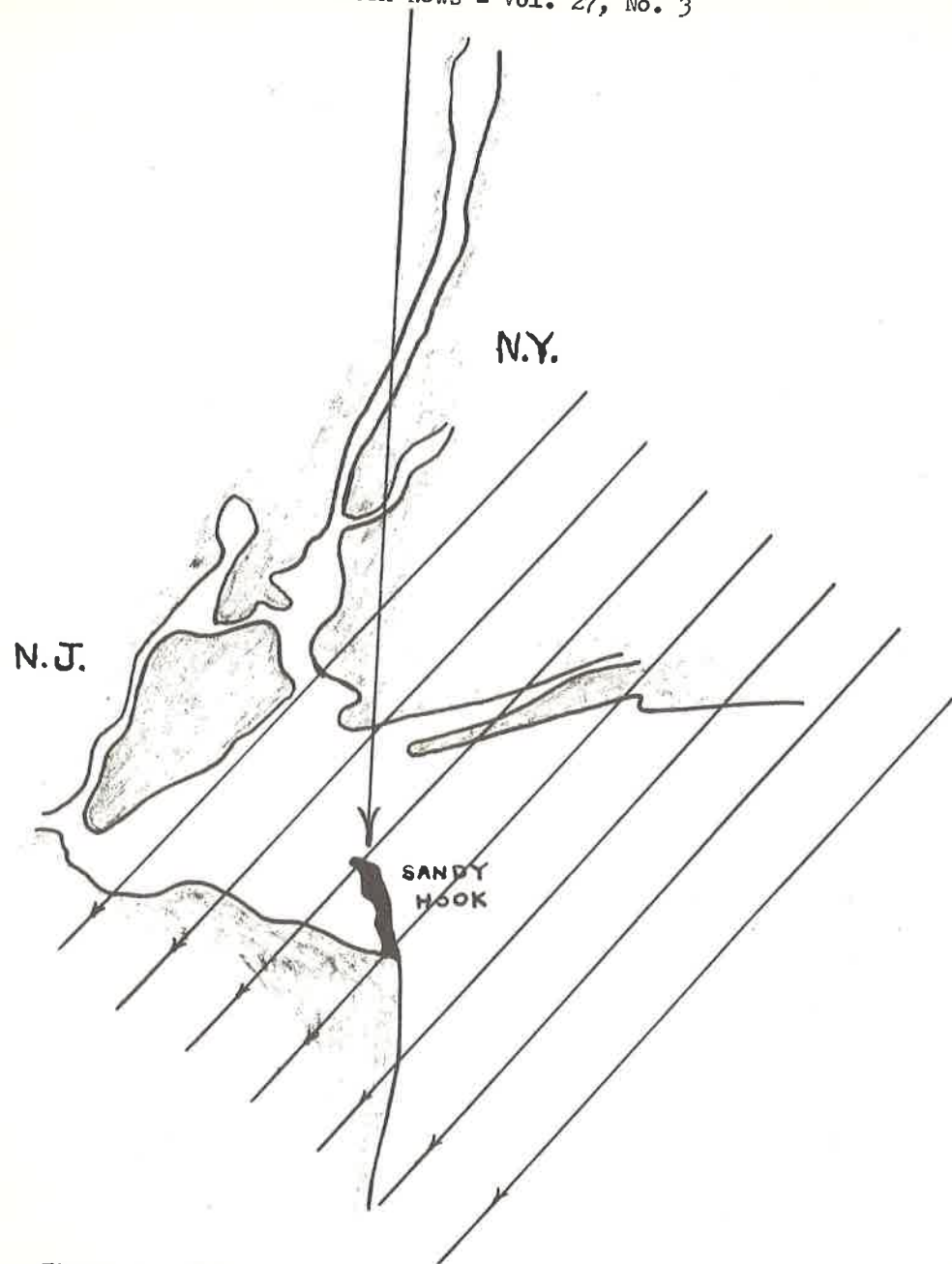


Figure 1. Relation of Sandy Hook to possible flight lines.

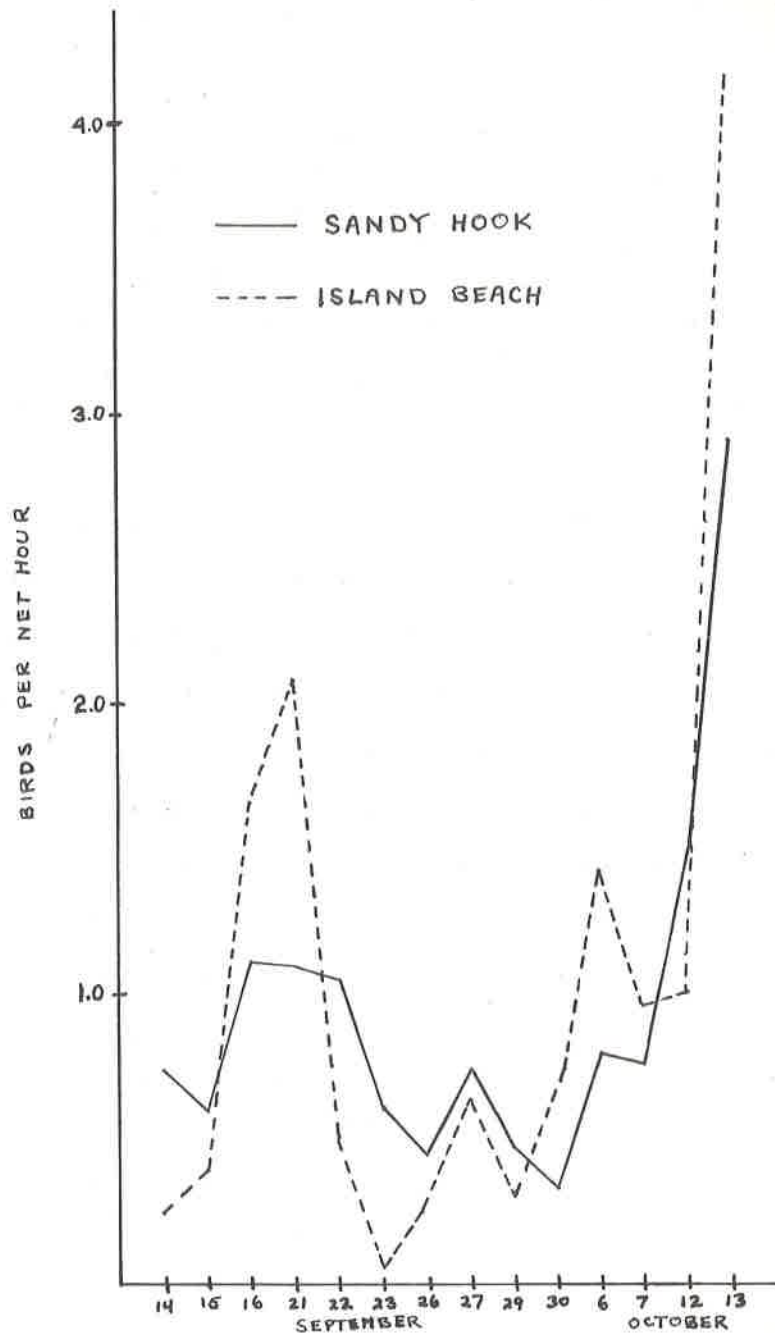


Figure 2. Comparison of Birds Per Net Hour at Sandy Hook and Island Beach on Selected 1962 Days.

Species	September												October			Total	
	13	14	15	16	21	22	23	26	27	29	30	6	7	12	13		
Yellow-s. Flicker	-	1	6	4	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	4	1	28
Yellow-b. Sapsucker	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	3	3	7	
Hairy Woodpecker	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	4	
Downy Woodpecker	-	-	1	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	2	2	1	1	11	
Eastern Phoebe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5	-	8	
Black-c. Chickadee	-	1	-	1	2	2	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	11	
Brown Creeper	-	-	-	-	-	14	-	-	-	2	5	10	12	12	10	6	
Catbird	-	3	5	4	2	7	3	1	1	4	4	5	10	12	10	59	
Brown Thrasher	1	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	-	-	3	1	37	
Wood Thrush	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	4	
Hermit Thrush	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	
Swainson's Thrush	-	1	4	9	1	5	4	1	6	4	1	1	2	5	9	17	
Gray-cheeked Thrush	-	-	-	2	1	2	1	2	1	-	1	2	1	1	2	43	
Veery	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	2	15	
Golden-c. Kinglet	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	2	1	4	
Ruby-c. Kinglet	-	5	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	1	-	6	
White-eyed Vireo	-	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	4	1	-	6	
Red-eyed Vireo	-	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	3	1	-	6	
Black & Wh. Warbler	-	2	1	2	-	3	1	-	-	1	1	1	1	2	-	9	
Magnolia Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	1	1	1	1	-	12	
Myrtle Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	23	-	49	
Blackpoll Warbler	-	3	1	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	12	2	2	2	12	49	
Ovenbird	-	1	1	2	2	1	1	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	6	
North. Waterthrush	-	1	1	2	1	2	1	1	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	7	
Yellowthroat	-	-	2	1	-	1	4	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	12	
American Redstart	-	1	6	7	4	8	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	34	
Cardinal	-	1	1	1	4	8	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	5	
Rufous-s. Towhee	-	7	3	3	-	4	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	5	
State-c. Junco	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	-	-	-	3	-	36	
White-thr. Sparrow	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	5	2	2	5	6	13	
Song Sparrow	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	9	1	18	34	69	
Total Individuals*	3	28	33	47	11	67	19	8	11	28	13	52	49	99	84	84	
Total Species*	3	13	13	19	6	22	10	7	15	13	8	19	17	23	15	29	
Net Hours	9	37	55	42	10	64	30	18	15	59	39	66	65	69	29	29	

*See text for omitted species

Bay-breasted Warbler (9/29), Yellow-breasted Chat (10/12), Hooded Warbler (9/16), Wilson's Warbler (9/16), Canada Warbler (9/16), Indigo Bunting (10/12), Swamp Sparrow - two (9/30 & 10/13).

It is interesting to compare catches with those obtained at Island Beach, 40 miles to the south. Figure 2 shows the birds per net hour for fourteen days at the two locations. Although at first glance there seems to be a similarity in trends, closer examination reveals disparities not expected from two coastal locations in close proximity. Catches on only about half of the days showed similar trends. Many factors are undoubtedly at work which are not being considered.

An observation on chickadee distribution was made during the project. The Raritan River is usually cited as the dividing line between the Black-capped and Carolina Chickadees. Most chickadees to the south of the river are considered to be Carolinas. All six of the chickadees banded were identified as Black-caps.

There were two interesting recoveries which resulted from the study. A Brown Creeper (#102-37431) banded by S. S. Dickerson at Island Beach on October 11 at 0730 was netted by me at Sandy Hook on October 12 at 0900. A Magnolia Warbler - immature (#102-59917) banded by me at Sandy Hook on October 6 at 1300 was picked up dead in Brooklyn, New York City (near Sheepshead Bay) on October 7 about 1200 by R. Greenman (pers. comm.). Both of these recoveries were made almost due north of the banding location. The constitute further banding evidence of the phenomena of reverse migration.

A comment on the conservation of this area is in order. The "natural area" tract is small, it is unique botanically, and it will be subject to disturbance despite the efforts of the park personnel. Millions of people live within an hour or two drive of these precious 200 acres. Added use by banders is questionable at this time. If the State of New Jersey were able to acquire the rest of the Hook, some banding might be permitted.

This location is also the nesting site of at least three species of herons and a number of Ospreys. In June, one of our banding fraternity seriously damaged the bark of many of the large ancient hollies by using climbing irons to reach the nests of the herons. This was done without permission from the park personnel. Entrance to the area had been gained by obtaining a special permit for "bird observation." Need more be said!

I would like to thank Mr. James MacDonald of the Department of Conservation and Economic Development for permission to band in the park; Mr. Richard Cole, Park Naturalist, for his help and interest in the project; and Mr. Richard Riker, Park Superintendent, for many courtesies (especially for permission to bunk in the old Coast Guard Station).

Belle Mead, New Jersey

Table 1. BIRDS BANNED AT SANDY HOOK - 1964 *



Who Banded What? 1963

Edited by Betty Knorr



Ground Dove	Howard Kates (Florida)	19
Mourning Dove	Washington Crossing Park (Pa.)	502
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Dorothy Bordner (N. J.)	15
Black-billed Cuckoo	" " "	8
Barn Owl	Jan Reese (Maryland)	12
Screech Owl	Stuart Henderson (Mass.)	6
Great Horned Owl	John Linehan (Del.)	2
Long-eared Owl	John B. Miles (Ontario)	2
Saw-whet Owl	" " "	5
Whip-poor-will	Jan Reese (Maryland)	12
Common Nighthawk	John B. Miles (Ontario)	14
Ruby-thr. Hummingbird	Powdermill Nature Reserve (Pa.)	360
Belted Kingfisher	" " "	8
Yellow-shafted Flicker	Mr. & Mrs. J. R. Logan (N. J. & Mass.)	63
Pileated Woodpecker	T. A. Beckett (S. C.)	5
Red-bellied Woodpecker	" " "	14
Red-headed Woodpecker	" " "	3
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Walter Bigger (N. J.)	20
Hairy Woodpecker	Mrs. James Downs (Vt.)	39
Downy Woodpecker	Walter Bigger (Pa. & N. J.)	133
Eastern Kingbird	T. A. Beckett (S. C.)	13
Great Crested Flycatcher	" " "	17
Eastern Phoebe	Walter Bigger (Pa. & N. J.)	193
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	Powdermill Nature Reserve (Pa.)	31
Acadian Flycatcher	C. D. Hackman (Md.)	12
Traill's Flycatcher	Powdermill Nature Reserve (Pa.)	70
Least Flycatcher	" " "	115
Unident. Flycatcher	Tyler, Whitman, Cowger, & Livesay (Maine)	26
Eastern Wood Pewee	C. D. Hackman (Md.)	33
Olive-sided Flycatcher	Powdermill Nature Reserve (Pa.)	7
Horned Lark	Leroy Wilcox & Walter Terry (N. Y.)	5
Tree Swallow	J. C. Miller & R. C. Miller (N. J. & Pa.)	30
Bank Swallow	John B. Miles (Ontario)	566
Rough-winged Swallow	Stuart Henderson (Mass.)	36
Barn Swallow	John B. Miles (Ontario)	734
Cliff Swallow	" " "	18
Purple Martin	Ralph Bell (Pa.)	117
Gray Jay	Mrs. R. W. Patterson (Maine)	6
Blue Jay	Mr. & Mrs. J. R. Logan (Mass.)	417
Common Crow	Washington Crossing Park (Pa.)	18
Black-capped Chickadee	Powdermill Nature Reserve (Pa.)	367
Carolina Chickadee	C. D. Hackman (Md.)	47
Boreal Chickadee	LCDR M. C. Morse, Jr. (Vt.)	11

Tufted Titmouse	Lillian Cardinali (N. J.)	31
White-breasted Nuthatch	Walter Bigger (Pa. & N. J.)	23
Red-breasted Nuthatch	Dorothy Bordner (N. J.)	140
Brown Creeper	Walter Bigger (Pa. & N. J.)	259
House Wren	Powdermill Nature Reserve (Pa.)	86
Winter Wren	C. D. Hackman (Md.)	10
Bewick's Wren	Dr. Chas. Blake (S. C.)	2
Carolina Wren	T. A. Beckett (S. C.)	67
Long-billed Marsh Wren	J. C. Miller & R. C. Miller (Pa. & N. J.)	9
Mockingbird	Mr. & Mrs. Sydney Mitchell (Va.)	55
Catbird	W. T. Van Velzen (Md.)	223
Brown Thrasher	Walter Bigger (Pa. & N. J.)	77
	Mabel Warburton (Pa. & N. J.)	77
	Ralph Bell (Pa.)	216
Robin	Washington Crossing Park (Pa.)	166
Wood Thrush	W. T. Van Velzen (Md.)	234
Hermit Thrush	" " " "	392
Swainson's Thrush	" " " "	154
Gray-cheeked Thrush	" " " "	314
Veery	" " " "	87
Eastern Bluebird	Mr. & Mrs. C. Neel (Pa.)	19
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Powdermill Nature Reserve (Pa.)	100
Golden-crowned Kinglet	Walter Bigger (N. J.)	90
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Powdermill Nature Reserve (Pa.)	133
Cedar Waxwing	" " " "	8
Loggerhead Shrike	Dr. Chas. Blake (S. C.)	695
Starling	William Savell (N. J.)	21
White-eyed Vireo	T. A. Beckett (S. C.)	2
Yellow-throated Vireo	Dr. Chas. Blake (S. C.)	2
	C. D. Hackman (Md.)	7
	Mrs. R. W. Patterson (Maine)	169
Solitary Vireo	Powdermill Nature Reserve (Pa.)	14
Red-eyed Vireo	Leonard Bradley (Conn.)	4
Philadelphia Vireo	P. Boocock & M. Hamilton (Ontario)	4
Warbling Vireo	Robert Leberman (Pa.)	4

Mrs. Neil M. Knorr, 58 Steamboat Landing Rd., South Amboy, N. J. 08879

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW INFORMATION WANTED By R. Connor Tedards

From January 15, 1964 through February 29, 1964 I have banded seven sub-adult White-crowned Sparrows (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*). (This classification after 1-1-64.) This species was casual to my observations until approximately the winter of 1962. Since 1962 the species seems to be increasing in numbers during the winter and spring migration. It is also interesting from my point of view that all my bandings were sub-adults.

I would appreciate any advice as to other available information concerning the White-crowned Sparrow.

Route Two - Brown Road, Anderson, South Carolina



Until yesterday it looked as if I were about to follow the example of Sydney Smith, the witty clergyman of one hundred and fifty years ago. He claimed, "I never read a book before reviewing it, it prejudices a man so."

For this issue of EBBA News I planned to review the first volume of the series entitled "Handbook of North American Birds." The series is sponsored jointly by the American Ornithologists Union and the New York State Museum and Science Service. It is issued by the Yale University Press and edited by Ralph Palmer. The publication date in the first and only volume now in print is 1962, but do you suppose I could locate a copy? Not in the library of the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia, not in the offices of the curators of ornithology in that institution. (They probably keep their copies at home.)

My original plan had been to compare the new with Bent's "Life Histories of North American Birds." It began to look as if Bent would win by default.

There is a purpose in presenting the preceding detail. Some ten days ago the Academy librarian told me that volume one of the Handbook had been ordered. So you see what can be accomplished by constantly demanding a particular book, and you'll know how to proceed in the event you can't at first locate a copy of this Handbook.

Volume One includes Loons through Flamingoes. Tentative contents for the next four volumes finish with Swallows. It will take at least two more volumes to get through the A. O. U. check list. Volume One retails for \$15.00, so it is evident why most of us must depend on libraries. We will all benefit by a survey of the first volume and the succeeding ones as they appear.

In this first book there is an introduction stating the scope of the work, and including valuable details. There is a color chart following the Villalobos system. There are almost life-sized black and white sketches of bird anatomy showing in detail how to take measurements. I have a future date with myself to give this section very careful study as a "must" for banding data accuracy.

The outline of reproduction routines is something I have not encountered previously. Under the classification "Single Sexual Nexus" the editor notes:

1. Life-long mating until the death of one partner.
2. Mating sustained for more than one breeding season.
3. Mating seasonal, through only one breeding season.
4. Mating lasting through only one cycle.
5. Temporary mating.

Under "Multiple Sexual Nexus" there are

1. Bigamy: two female partners during a breeding cycle, but more attention given to mates than mere copulation. This can be contemporaneous or successive.
2. Polygamy: more than two female partners during breeding cycle, but more attention given to mates than mere copulation. This, again, can be contemporaneous or successive.
3. Harem Polygamy
4. Promiscuity
5. Polyandry

In considering birds by species, the following outline is standard: description including measurements, sub-species, field identification, voice, habitat, distribution with map, migration, banding status, reproduction, survival, habits, and food.

In every case I had time to note, the banding data was allowed but a brief paragraph. Figures were given for the total number banded, the number of returns, the number of recoveries; and brief mention was made of the areas where most of the banding had been done. Even though as a bander, I would have appreciated more detail, I had to admit that there is a limit to the amount of data that can be included in 550 pages.

The paragraphs dealing with reproduction were broken down as follows: pair formation, pair bond, selection of breeding territory, mutual display, copulation, nests, laying season, clutch sizes, incubation, replacement clutches, hatching success, age at first flight.

The colored plates are few. The color chart mentioned covers a double page; plate 2 shows four plumage variations of the northern fulmar; 3, a comparison of cormorant heads; 4, four herons: great blue, Wurdemann's, great white, and the common or Eurasian gray; 5, various heron bills; 6, the ibises.

The black and white drawings are many and good. One full page that I particularly noted shows positions of the western grebe, such as flight,

race, dance, display. Anyone who saw Disney's Water Bird film will appreciate these positions. The contributing artists are too many to be noted here.

A proper reviewer at this point would list a book's shortcomings. It is only a personal idiosyncrasy that impels me to think of a "handbook" as an easily manipulated publication like Peterson's field guides. The Handbook being here reviewed required two hands to hold it.

Instead of winning it would seem as if Bent had lost. But his classic Life Histories have something the current Handbook can't include. This will be revealed in the next number of EBBA News.

313 Sharp Avenue, Glenolden, Pa.

WEEKEND FOR THE GULLS

By Mary Lou Petersen (Reprinted from Iowa Bird Life)

Bird watchers come in assorted shapes, sizes, and interests. Most bird watchers are considered only slightly sub-normal by the unfortunate, non-bird watching masses. Of all the types of birders the bird bander is by far the most unusual. Banding is not a normal hobby. It becomes an all-consuming passion. A truly addicted mass bander will risk life and limb to add a species to his year's banding record or his life's banding record. Each year he plots and plans so that he may band an even greater number of birds than he did in the previous year. Last year's record is a challenge that must be superseded in the present season. With this explanation of the bander's craving desire for more species and greater numbers, you will be better equipped to understand the motives for a gull banding weekend.

July 4th, 1963. Situated in the unpredictable waters of the mighty Lake Michigan, a few hundred feet from shore, are tiny points of land: Gravel Island, Spider Island and what we call the reef. These islands off the coast of Door County, Wisconsin are, for the most part, inhabited by gulls. Gravel Island was a home for Herring Gulls this season. Spider Island and the reef were possessed by both Herring and Ring-billed Gulls. Our week-end was entirely for the gulls and we spent hours in the blazing sun grabbing squawking young gulls and clamping rings on them.

My first experience banding gulls was on Gravel Island. As we approached the island the adult Herring Gulls became more and more disturbed. Circling above us and screaming at our approach, but maintaining a healthy distance; they resented our arrival. As you land at the home of hundreds of gulls (at first you believe there are certainly thousands) the olfactory nerves send protest to the brain. Soon, however, they fatigue.

It doesn't take long to become adept at spotting the downy young huddled in the cracks of rocks, under grass, or on open ground. They

must hide for infanticide is common among gulls. This is evidenced by the number of dead that are found. Unusual as it may seem, the young gulls nearly able to fly are far more docile than the cute, little chick-sized young. Often, you may approach a good-sized juvenile from the rear, reach under the bird and grab a leg (we always band the right), and clamp on a ring without a squawk. The little ones run, yelp and try to bite. As the little ones scream, the parents circle and scream above you.

Banding on Gravel Island was not at all difficult and by mid-morning we had 149 young gulls banded and we headed our dingy toward the reef. At the reef my gull banding desire suddenly dissipated. Here there were at least 400 pairs of gulls nesting. The majority of them were Ring-billed and as I soon discovered the Ring-billed Gulls are much more aggressive than the Herring Gulls.

As I looked at the screaming, stinking, milling hoard of gulls on the southern end of the reef, I panicked. I just could not stand that many adult gulls above me, diving, screaming and bombarding the ground below them. I remained on the northern end of the reef with the passive Herring Gulls, while my "go get 'em and band 'em" husband charged into the fray. He double-timed into the milling white mass waving his pliers in his right hand and wearing a stringer of 100 number five bands around his neck. He was protected from aerial attack by a large, wide-brimmed, disreputable cowboy hat. However, his shirt and pants showed signs of direct hits.

Left to my own devices, I searched out every young Herring Gull on the quiet northern end and gradually worked more and more southward toward the Ring-billed suburbs. I worked my way to the edge of the large group of gulls, concerning myself only with Herring Gulls. Coming upon three fairly good-sized young gulls, I prepared to get them banded. I was on my knees bending over these docile youngsters when a sudden shriek and rush of pounding feathers startled me. It was a mixed-up Ring-billed parent protesting my presence, apparently so near its nest. I continued banding and was swooped upon twice more. Each time the irate gull came closer. I crouched and watched as it circled, sighted and dived again. But this time, when it was nearly upon me, I leaped up waving my pliers and shouting. The bird veered sharply upward and then headed toward open water, to regain its shaken composure no doubt. Feeling a warm, nasty, self-satisfaction and having thus vented by frustrations, I charged into the Ring-billed group and grabbed young gulls for my husband to band.

By mid-afternoon we ran out of Ring-billed bands and we also ran out of Herring Gulls to band with the remaining size six bands. We decided to quit for the day and return to Rowley's Bay. As I said, mass banders risk life and limb for their hobby and this time was no exception. During our banding, the wind shifted and the water became treacherous and our day's adventures were far from over. But, that is another story.