



## 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
Trill'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
Robin	Ralph Bell (Pa.)	216
Wood Thrush	Washington Crossing Park (Pa.)	166
Hermit Thrush	W. T. Van Velzen (Md.)	234
Swainson's Thrush	" " " "	392
Gray-cheeked Thrush	" " " "	154
Veery	" " " "	314
Eastern Bluebird	Mr. & Mrs. C. Neel (Pa.)	87
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Powdermill Nature Reserve (Pa.)	19
Golden-crowned Kinglet	Walter Bigger (N. J.)	100
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Powdermill Nature Reserve (Pa.)	90
Cedar Waxwing	" " " "	133
Loggerhead Shrike	Dr. Chas. Blake (S. C.)	8
Starling	William Savell (N. J.)	695
White-eyed Vireo	T. A. Beckett (S. C.)	21
Yellow-throated Vireo	Dr. Chas. Blake (S. C.)	2
	C. D. Hackman (Md.)	2
Solitary Vireo	Mrs. R. W. Patterson (Maine)	7
Red-eyed Vireo	Powdermill Nature Reserve (Pa.)	169
Philadelphia Vireo	Leonard Bradley (Conn.)	14
Warbling Vireo	P. Boocock & M. Hamilton (Ontario)	4
	Robert Leberman (Pa.)	4

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### 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.

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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.

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#### 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.