

HOPE PUTNAM GEIS
(1904 - 1965)

On January 10th, 1965, Hope Putnam Geis of Riverside, Connecticut, passed away at the age of 60 after a long illness.

Mrs. Geis was born September 14, 1904 in Beverly, Massachusetts. Her lifelong interest in birds began as a child during one of the early New England Evening Grosbeak invasions. Her interest continued and she started banding in 1952, establishing an active banding station at her home.

In 12 years of banding, Hope Geis banded over 14,000 birds of more than 100 species. One of the most significant of her many contributions to banding was her many years' work with House Finches. The Riverside-Old Greenwich area was one of the first places in which House Finches turned up in numbers during the mid-1950's, and over 600 have been banded at Mrs. Geis' station since then. Philadelphia area recoveries of some of these birds first shed light on their migratory movements in the east. Occasional rarities also showed up in her traps and nets, among them a Blue Grosbeak and a hybrid White-throated Sparrow x Slate-colored Junco.

But probably one of the greatest services Hope Geis contributed to the banding program was her lecture and public relations activities with school children in the Riverside area. The Riverside Elementary School was next door to the Geis residence, and over the years hundreds of young children attended lecture programs and demonstrations held by Mrs. Geis in her yard. The result of this effort on Mrs. Geis' part is a greatly increased awareness of the banding program among persons in our area, who have been exceptionally cooperative in the reporting of banded birds.

In addition to bird banding, Mrs. Geis was for many years active in Red Cross projects in the community, contributing 6,802 hours of volunteer service in Red Cross activities. She was also a director of the Greenwich Audubon Society.

Mrs. Geis had been a member of the Eastern Bird Banding Association for many years and was well known to many banders in the east. Her parting will be deeply felt by all those who knew and worked with her.

Bruce Adams, 40 Summit Road, Riverside, Connecticut

