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BANDING RECOVERIES FROM

THE RECORDS OF ELISE AND STANLEY DICKERSON

Compiled by Donald S. Heintzelman

INTRODUCTION .

During the past few decades an extensive amount of bird-banding has been conducted in the State of New Jersey. Two of the most active and productive of the many banders working in the Garden State were Elise and Stanley Dickerson who worked primarily at Island Beach State Park and at Spotswood, New Jersey. In addition, they banded thousands of birds at Block Island, Rhode Island and elsewhere.

Since the unfortunate death of Elise Dickerson several years ago, Stanley Dickerson discontinued his bird-banding activities and deposited all of their banding records, recovery cards and sheets, and related items in the Science Bureau of the New Jersey State Museum in Trenton. This report summarizes the banding recoveries in the Dickerson files when the Museum received them, as well as recoveries recently received by the State Museum. I am uncertain if all of the Dickerson recoveries are represented in this paper, but surely most of them are here. Most are being published for the first time although a few may have appeared elsewhere in print. This paper, therefore, is a tribute to two of the most able and productive bird-banders who worked in New Jersey.

THE DICKERSON RECORDS

As already mentioned, all of the Dickerson's bird-banding records are on file in the New Jersey State Museum. In addition, all new recoveries are forwarded to the State Museum. Any bird-bander interested in ornithology is welcome to use any or all of this valuable accumulation of information by coming to the Museum during normal working hours, Monday through Friday. Because of the large quantity of material involved in this collection, records can not be mailed. Nevertheless, the files are open and available to anyone wishing to use them at the Museum.

In presenting the records in the Dickerson's files, the records are first arranged in a phylogenetic sequence. Under each species, the band numbers are then arranged with the lowest numbers appearing first and the highest numbers last. Where possible, the age of the bird at the time of banding is given, followed by the sex of the individual and the circumstances involved in the recovery of the specimen.

Because of the large number of recoveries involved in this paper, it was impossible to check and confirm the accuracy of each record with the federal Bird-Banding Laboratory. However a number of "interesting" or otherwise questionable records were submitted to the Laboratory for checking and confirmation. Significantly, many of these records were incorrect and have been corrected for use here. Hopefully, the remaining unconfirmed recovery records are correct and accurate. Neither the compiler nor the banders can assume responsibility for errors which occur in the federal banding office!