at Medford on March 2, 1919, proves to be this form. Many California forms enter Oregon in the Rogue River valley, and it is no surprise to find this subspecies there.

*Melospiza melodia kenaiensis.* Kenai Song Sparrow. A dark colored song sparrow noticed feeding on the rocks at Cannon Beach on February 8, 1922, appeared so different from the usual birds that it was collected.

*Melospiza melodia inexspectata.* Yellowhead-Pass Song Sparrow. While visiting a neighbor in Portland on January 8, 1922, a peculiar looking song sparrow was noticed in the yard. After watching it for some time I returned home to secure a gun and collected it.

*Passerella iliaca mariposae.* Yosemite Fox Sparrow. On June 13, 1921, a small colony of Fox Sparrows was found on a brush covered hillside at about 4,000 feet altitude in Jackson County. This colony was located on the north slope of a small butte on Little Butte Creek, about twelve miles from the summit of the Cascades, which, at this point, is about 5,000 feet in altitude. Only one single male was collected.—IRA N. GABRIELSON, *Portland, Oregon, May 14, 1923.*

**The White-tailed Kite on the Mohave Desert.**—On September 17, 1922, I saw an adult White-tailed Kite (*Elanus leucurus*) flying up and down the Mohave River, just below the town of Victorville, San Bernardino County. This locality is considerably outside the established California range for the species, and is in a different faunal area. The river at this point would seem to offer every inducement to kites. There are extensive willow and cottonwood groves along the banks and in the adjacent bottomland, as well as numerous small marshes where food should be found in abundance. Under these circumstances it would not be surprising if further observation showed the species to be not so casual here as the single record at present would indicate.—A. J. VAN ROSSEM, *Pasadena, California, March 26, 1923.*

## WITH THE BIRD BANDERS

Under the Direction of J. Eugene Law, Altadena, California

**Foreword.**—When Baldwin's epochal paper "Bird-Banding by means of Systematic Trapping" came west, the manager of this department determined to lose no time in adopting this method of bird study. For two years now, solitary trapping has been yielding surprise after surprise. But where his birds go and where they come from remains a mystery. Only through the cooperation of a corps of earnest workers in well distributed localities can such problems be solved. Obviously, the accumulation of this data will be in direct proportion to the number of operators engaged in such activities.

In the east, the bird banding movement is rapidly gathering momentum under the stimulation of the New England Bird Banding Association and the Inland Bird Banding Association. The Linnaean Society of New York and the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club have both announced their intention of actively promoting it. In the west, the Cooper Ornithological Club has already made provision for the organization of local chapters of bird banders.

It will be the purpose of this department to stimulate interest in bird banding and in the organization of such chapters, and as well to assemble and present in necessarily condensed form any items of interest to bird banders and about banded birds. From time to time lists of birds banded will be added as heretofore, so that one taking a western bird which bears a band can at once, by consulting Condor files, determine the station from which the bird has come. A complete list of bands appears on the back cover.

**Merits and Demerits.**—Nothing in ornithological history has promised so much as does bird banding for the advancement of accurate knowledge of the travels of birds. We have studied groups; now we can study the individual. Intimate facts about its daily life, heretofore only guessed at, can now be accurately recorded. The daily radius of its activities, its mating proclivities, its winter and summer home, its route of migra-

tion and the time consumed, a dozen lines of study are within the grasp of the sincere student.

But trapping a bird is a serious matter. An injury to the bird handicaps it in its effort to perpetuate itself. A bird must find food, a lot of food, every day of its life. Lessened activity means lessened vitality, and that means lessened alertness to escape its enemies, which are legion. Such a bird is an abnormality no longer acceptable in studies of the normal habits and activities of birds.

There is nothing about the trapping or banding of a bird that a person with fairly deft fingers cannot accomplish and accomplish well. A little practice makes it routine. We believe that students of birds, those persons who have been drawn to this study by an innate or by a developed desire to know the birds better, will play fair with the birds and will avoid neglect and injury to them. We believe that such students will realize the necessity of an accurate and painstaking record of their activities. And to such, there should be no question about the granting of permits.

But frankly, we do decry a tendency already apparent to make bird banding a popular fad, a game for the dilettante, for we believe that more harm than good will come to ornithology from the extension of this movement outside of the circle of those who have taken an active interest in the birds.

No small number of our best banders will come from the ranks of those whose tenderness for the birds abhors any cruelties to them. Wholesale operations by the individual or by the public are bound to inflict unnecessary distress on the birds, and as surely will breed opposition from those whose active cooperation we need.

We do not believe that western birds are temperamentally different from those of other localities. Western birds cannot be trapped in quantity without injury to them. They can be trapped under constant supervision without apparent distress whatever. I have had a linnet sing its entire song between my hand and its first perch after being banded. Wren-tits frequently begin singing the instant they reach their first perch, and continue until lost to sight. Thrashers often utter snatches of song while in hand.

**Band All Nestlings.**—Nestlings offer a particularly attractive field for banding activities. You start at the beginning of the life cycle. Whether the young in your yard nest there the next year, or a block or a mile away, is one of the problems that your banding efforts may solve for you. Do the young acquire adult plumage in one, two, or three years? Your traps can tell you.

**Banded Birds Killed.**—What to do with the band when a banded bird is killed, has been asked. Since the band carries definite information with regard to that bird's life-history, it is important that the band be left intact on the bird's leg, and that the bird be preserved as a study specimen. If the captor is unable to prepare the skin, he should deliver the bird at once (dead birds spoil quickly) to some person who will. All data with regard to the banding and to other subsequent captures should be assembled and recorded on a tag attached to the specimen. Do not fail to forward to the Biological Survey at Washington the details of capture: date, locality, sex, etc.

**A Banded White-throated Sparrow Returns to a California Station.**—Perhaps the most remarkable record yet obtained by banding birds is that of a White-throated Sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*) banded by Mrs. Amelia S. Allen at Berkeley, California, on January 25, 1922. The normal range of this species both winter and summer is entirely east of the Rocky Mountain divide. A few winter 'stragglers' have been recorded from the Pacific slope. This banded straggler returned November 29, 1922, to the food table where it had been banded and reappeared frequently throughout the winter and until April 4, 1923. Mrs. Allen re-captured it on April 1, 1923, to make certain its identity.

This brings up a momentous question: Do stragglers straggle? If this bird, as we have assumed for stragglers, was thrown out of its normal migration route by some unnatural cause in the autumn of 1921, it would be most extraordinary that a like unnatural event should have again diverted it in the autumn of 1922. In other words, we

are led to assume that the migration route over which it traveled in the autumn of 1921 was or became a 'fixed character,' since this bird came back, without others of its kin, in the autumn of 1922.

*Altadena, California, May 16, 1923.*

## RECORD OF BIRDS BANDED

| Bands: | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 9723 | 12396 | 15256-15258 | 42896-42900 | 49008-49009 | 52014 |
| | 10306 | 12701-12725 | 16312-16317 | 43606-43610 | 49380 | 52016-52018 |
| | 11521-11527 | 14422-14425 | 16322-16323 | 43937-43940 | 51976-51978 | 52211 |
| | 12376 | 14429-14436 | 21551-21555 | 45012 | 51980-51981 | 55032-55039 |
| | 12383-12389 | 14438-14442 | 24849 | 47656 | 52001-52002 | 56176-56200 |
| | 12391 | 14470 | 24866-24872 | 47658-47660 | 52007-52012 | 56439 |
| | 12393-12394 | | 24874-24875 | 48171 | | 56442-56444 |

Mrs. Amelia S. Allen, at Berkeley, California, January 23, 1922 to April 1, 1923.

Junco oreganus (subsp.), (1) 51981.
Melospiza melodia (subsp.), (4) 45012, 48171, 51977, 55036.
Passerella iliaca (subsp.), (5) 51976, 55032, -33, -34, -37.
Pipilo c. crissalis, (2) 51980, 55038.
Pipilo maculatus (subsp.), (3) 49008, 55035, -39.
Zonotrichia albicollis, (1) 51978.
Zonotrichia coronata, (1) 49009.

H. C. Bryant, at Berkeley, California, May 11, 1922 to April 6, 1923.

Junco oreganus (subsp.), (6) 11523, 21551-21555.
Lophortyx c. californica, (9) 42896-42900, 43937-43940.
Melospiza m. rufina, (1) 11522.
Passerella iliaca (subsp.), (2) 11521, -24.
Pipilo c. crissalis, (3) 15256-15258.
Zonotrichia albicollis, (1) 11526.
Zonotrichia coronata, (4) 11525, -27, 49380, 52211.

J. Eugene Law, at Altadena, California, October 31, 1922 to May 6, 1923.

Carpodacus m. frontalis, (8) 12715, -16, -18, -19, -24, 52001, -12, 56439.
Chamaea f. henshawi, (7) 24874, 52008-52011, -14, -16.
Lophortyx c. vallicola, (1) 9733.
Melospiza m. cooperi, (2) 12703, -17.
Mimus p. leucopterus, (1) 56444.
Oporornis tolmiei, (1) 52002.
Pipilo m. megalonyx, (2) 16317, -22.
Pipilo c. senicula, (9) 12725, 16312-16316, -23, 56442, -43.
Toxostoma r. redivivum, (1) 10306.
Zonotrichia coronata, (29) 12383-12389, -91, -94, -96, 14422-14425, 14429-14436, 14438-14442, -70.
Zonotrichia leucophrys (subsp.), (25) 12701, -02, 12704-12714, 12720-12723, 12393, 24849, -66, -72, -75, 52007, -17, -18.

At Los Angeles, California, December 21, 1922 to December 29, 1922.

Carpodacus m. frontalis, (1) 24869.
Melospiza m. cooperi, (1) 24867.
Zonotrichia leucophrys (subsp.), (4) 12376, 24868, -70, -71.

Helen S. Pratt, at Eagle Rock, California, April 8, 1923 to April 30, 1923.

Carpodacus m. frontalis, (1) 54836.
Melospiza m. cooperi, (4) 54840-54843.
Pipilo c. senicula, (3) 47166, -67, 42823.
Zonotrichia coronata, (2) 42821, -22.
Zonotrichia leucophrys (subsp.), (8) 54831-54835, 54837-54839.

Roland Case Ross, at Pasadena, California, March 28, 1923 to May 11, 1923.

Carpodacus m. frontalis, (25) 56176-56200.
Mimus p. leucopterus, (4) 47656, -58, -59, -60.
Pipilo c. senicula, (1) 43610.
Zonotrichia leucophrys (subsp.), (4) 43606-43609.