

"The black of the head covers the forehead, crown, lores, chin, part of the throat, and all, or nearly all, of the malar region, ear coverts and occiput. It hardly seems to me to quite cover these last regions, but the black extends well back of and below the eye. The eye is black without a trace of eye-ring or stripe.

"The under parts are light gray, becoming lighter until white on the lower tail coverts. The sides and flanks are lightly washed with pale orange, this color seeming to reach up under the wing.

"The back is darker gray than the under parts, in some lights showing a brownish cast, becoming gradually a lighter gray on the rump to very light on the upper tail coverts. The tail is black and double rounded.

"I may go a little wrong on the wing, but the black seems to be restricted to the primaries, the ends of the primary feathers being white with other white places showing near the end. The rest of the wing is dark gray or brownish gray like the back. (This gray is dark only by comparison with the under parts.) When the bird flies the white of the wings is very conspicuous in patches. At rest, the black hood and the large bill are its most striking features.

"As to the bird's general habits, I can supply only a few meager details, as I have very little leisure to follow it about. Its environment here is an orchard, one and one-half miles from Vacaville. Besides a row of shrubs bearing red berries beside the dwelling, there are, near by, orange trees rather densely foliaged, pepper trees, fig trees, and a walnut tree bare of leaves this time of year. All about are smaller deciduous trees.

"When I see the bird it is most often eating the berries of toyon and of pyracantha, which it seems to like equally well. It eats these literally by the hour, audibly crushing the seeds with its massive bill; I wonder how it gets enough to eat on the days it forsakes our bushes. I have never seen it eat anything else. I have seen it drink twice. Once when I saw it hopping along on the ground in an open space as if looking for something, I thought perhaps water, I placed a saucer of water on the ground; it flew to a near-by clothes-line until I retreated and then hopped down and drank. Another time it flew down from a toyon shrub to a puddle close by and drank.

"Only once have I seen it fly into an orange tree, and perhaps two or three times into the pepper trees. It appears to choose the leafless walnut and fig trees, where it perches either on a low branch or on the very top. I have seen it fly from one tree top to another a hundred yards away. Never have I seen it on the ground except when it was after a drink.

"It does not call very much, which probably accounts for my failure to locate it some days. At first, I used to hear it only early in the morning; but I have since heard it call throughout much of the day. It is always perching in the open trees at such times. When too close approach frightens it, it gives two or three notes and flies away."—HAROLD C. BRYANT, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, April 10, 1924.*

WITH THE BIRD BANDERS

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

Annual Census.—In order to provide a measure of growth of banding activities in the west, a list of all birds banded in the "Western Province" is presented on the inside of the back cover of this issue. Approximately one year has elapsed since effort began to be especially directed to the development of this movement in this region. Prior to this period a half-dozen or less of banders had spontaneously developed and had banded only a modicum of birds.

"Western Province" is here used to designate the Pacific and plateau regions of North America which are naturally delimited by the eastern base of the Rocky Mountains, and it is this region, roughly tied in by state lines, which has been assigned by the Biological Survey to the Cooper Ornithological Club for purposes of promoting banding. Since many of the birds that breed in the north of this province winter in the south of it, it is fitting that the entire region be thus coordinated.

The Cooper Club claims only a portion of the credit for such development as this census shows. Some of our most active banders in the west were 'discovered' by the New England or other outside organizations. Other banders have developed independently. I am satisfied, too, that there are some who have done banding work in the west, either as visitors or as residents, whose names have not yet come to me, and whose work is therefore not included in this report. Will any such please file their names with me at once?

My list of permittees in the Western Province totaled 86 on March 1, 1924. Of these, 28 responded to the call for totals and 10 others reported failure to band birds during the preceding year. The 29 active banders, then, whose totals of birds banded are summarized on the inside back cover, are:

ALBERTA	CALIFORNIA (northern)
Patton, Dan	Allen, Mrs. Amelia S.
BRITISH COLUMBIA	Baxter, Philip N.
Gillingham, Donald W.	Bryant, H. C.
Mayers, F. J.	Clabaugh, Ernest D.
Munro, J. A.	Duncan, Carl D.
Pearce, Theed	Kibbe, A. S.
COLORADO	LaJeunesse, H. V.
Bergtold, Dr. W. H.	Quayle, Ernest H.
Copeland, Miss Ada B.	Strong, W. A.
MONTANA	CALIFORNIA (southern)
Evans, W. V.	Barnes, C. A.
NEW MEXICO	Ellis, Mrs. Ella H.
Jensen, J. K.	Johnson, Dr. H. W.
UTAH	Law, J. Eugene
Anderson, Harrison	Pierce, Wright M.
	Potter, Miss Jessica A.
	Pratt, Miss Helen S.
	Robertson, John McB.
	Ross, Roland C.
	Wood, Dr. C. H.

Subspecific differentiations are purposely omitted in the list of birds banded. In every case the name used is intended to embrace the whole species, and thus to include all of its subspecies which have been included in the reports received.

Warning.—(Particularly directed to ornithologists of the older school). Many of you have already received from me a letter in which I endeavor to persuade you to equip yourself as a bander and learn the simple technique of trapping and banding the birds. I have emphasized the necessity that this work be started in each community by a well-informed bird student, who shall act as a nucleus and about whom activities in bird banding may develop in a thoroughly comprehensive manner.

Excepting for a rare enthusiast the response to my letters has been negative. Not one of you but believes that this line of effort is a good one (for the other fellow), all agree that it has great possibilities for the advancement of ornithological knowledge and most of you would like to engage in the work if you had the time.

Some day you are going to ask yourself why you procrastinated in joining this splendid work. When you do become an enthusiast, as you are sure to do, once you begin the work, you are going to look with regret at these passing months in which you might have banded wanderers whose return to your station would mark a big event in bird travel.

No ornithologist need look upon this work as a waste of his time. He will be amply repaid for every moment he devotes to it. The intimate contact with the live uninjured birds will make for better field observations and for better closet natural history.

It seems to me that the advanced bird students have a certain responsibility in the development of this method of bird study, a sponsorship which has thrust itself upon them, for how else can the value of bird banding be insured to ornithology.

Subspecific Names.—Many banders are devoting time and energy to subspecific identifications of the birds they are banding. For purposes of mental calisthenics, such efforts are entirely harmless. But sight identifications of subspecies, even at arm's length, are treacherous at best, and only encumber the records with data which is incapable of confirmation.

It is, therefore, recommended that, for purposes of communication between banders and about banding, forms like "*Melospiza melodia*, subsp.," "*Passerella iliaca*, subsp.," etc., be used. By this method banders will avoid responsibility for an added burden to the growing confusion of authenticated and unauthenticatable records which comprise our ornithological literature. Banding, for the present, at least, is occupied with what the individual bird does, rather than with its family tree. A simple nomenclature suffices.

Banding Nestlings.—Nestlings nearly fledged had best be left undisturbed, for they can rarely be persuaded to stay in the nest after being removed for banding, and when out their chance of survival is materially reduced. They can be banded without danger of stampede at any younger stage, after the 'tarsus' is long enough to receive the band. Remove all in the nest to a box, best soft lined, and return them to the nest, one by one, as banded. Deliberate motions on the part of the bander frighten the nestlings least. Use the size of band which an adult of the species requires.

If trapper's lore is correct, approach to the nest should be made before mid-afternoon, in order that night prowling predators will not have the fresh scent of the bander to guide them to the nest. One needs, also, to be alert for spying shrikes, jays, and crows, which are always on the lookout for nestlings. If such are about, drive them from the neighborhood until the parents of the nestlings are again in charge.

Unfeathered nestlings must not be exposed to the direct rays of a hot sun nor to chilling winds. They succumb quickly to either, and especially quickly to the former.

If one observes these simple cautions, nestlings suffer no inconvenience from being banded. By all means, lose no opportunity to band them.

Los Angeles Chapter.—On February 10, 1924, the Los Angeles Bird Banding Chapter of the Cooper Ornithological Club reorganized with 16 members present. A similar meeting, a year ago, had proved premature. Under appointment by the Southern Division of the Club, J. Eugene Law acted as chairman, and Mrs. Ella H. Ellis was named as secretary. The roll of charter members, which includes the other banders who have signified a desire to be included but were unable to be present at the meeting, is as follows:

C. A. Barnes	Mrs. C. H. Hall	Loye Holmes Miller
Frances V. Barnes	A. B. Howell	Helen S. Pratt
Elbert Benjamin	H. W. Johnson	Ethel Randall
Mrs. F. T. Bicknell	George L. Kaeding	J. McB. Robertson
Elizabeth F. Burnell	Margaret Kaeding	Roland C. Ross
Carl Chambers	J. Eugene Law	Jesse H. Taylor
W. Lee Chambers	Laura B. Law	L. E. Wyman
M. W. de Laubenfels	Luther Little	
Ella H. Ellis	R. J. Middleton	

Meetings are to be held on the second Sunday of each month.

J. EUGENE LAW, *Altadena, California, April 5, 1924.*

PUBLICATIONS REVIEWED

FORBES AND GROSS: "On the numbers and local distribution of Illinois land birds of the open country in winter, spring, and fall."*—In view of the Government's interest in bird censuses and the growing popularity of such censuses as are conducted by the National Association of Audubon Societies, this paper is significant. It seems that Professor Stephen A. Forbes, Chief of the Natural History Survey Division of the Board of Natural Resources and Conservation of the State of Illinois, and an assistant,

Alfred O. Gross, made some intensive censuses of the bird life of three sections of the state of Illinois in the years 1906, 1907, 1908 and 1909. The results did not appear in print until October, 1923.

Inability to make a complete census of the birds of the state at any time being recognized, these men resorted to the method of random sampling. Their listing of methods used is as follows:

1. A careful selection of the sample tracts surveyed, with a view to making them as nearly as possible fairly representative of the whole area from which they were chosen. [Our method of enumeration limited us to birds of more or less open country, excluding us from aquatic situations and from dense forests or lofty trees.]
2. The accurate recognition and complete enumeration by two observers of all the birds present on long strips or belts of uniform width, one ob-

*Bulletin of the State of Illinois, Department of Registration and Education, Division of the Natural History Survey. Vol. XIV, Article X, October, 1923, pp. 395-458.