

Querquedula discors. Blue-winged Teal. On April 19, 1924, while driving along a marsh south of Klamath Falls, Oregon, I noted a male Blue-winged Teal in bright spring plumage sunning himself at the edge of the water. This bird was collected. There seems to be no published record of this species for the Klamath district, though it has several times been reported by members of the Biological Survey.

Lobipes lobatus. Northern Phalarope. A female Northern Phalarope in high plumage was noted swimming about a roadside pool near Redmond, Oregon, on June 12, 1924. We stopped and watched this bird for some time before collecting it. It was evidently a non-breeding bird, as the ovaries showed no signs whatever of development.—IRA N. GABRIELSON, *Portland, Oregon, September 22, 1924.*



Fig. 60. NEST AND EGGS OF AMERICAN PIPIT FOUND JULY 21, 1924, IN THE WALLOWA NATIONAL FOREST, OREGON, BY STANLEY G. JEWETT.

WITH THE BIRD BANDERS

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

Zonotrichia on Vancouver Island.—Bearing date September 24, 1924, the following letter is of interest:

"I notice in the September, 1924, CONDOR that you and other banders are lining up to intercept the retreat of the *Zonotrichia* from British Columbia.

"It might interest you to hear that *Z. l. gambeli* are rather rare and travel as a rule in company with *Z. coronata* when crossing my station. *Z. l. nuttalli* breed on the Island and move through in small groups, family parties, no doubt, on their way to some central 'jumping off' site. *Z. coronata*, however, move in two columns and as a rule in two columns only, both in spring and autumn. These two columns in autumn are . . . made up of both young and old, and from their manner of repeating I gather that the different families stick pretty close together, for although the flock may consist of some 60 to 80 birds, certain birds banded at the same time will often repeat together more or less continually. That I have had chances of observing this might be granted when I say that I have just banded 49 of this species and have had

69 repeats from this same flock in the last few days. They are never as common in spring as in autumn. So much is this difference in numbers that I take it their route is not the same at both seasons.

"Taking the few that I banded on their way north last spring, and the chance that I may be able to band others from the shortly-to-be-expected second column, I hope that at least a few of them may deliver my compliments to you and other banders in the south."—G. D. SPROT, *Cobble Hill, Vancouver Island, British Columbia.*

Banding a Means, Not an End.—Banders should not overlook their opportunity to correlate the work of their traps with the habits and migrations of the birds they are handling. Note book entries *made at the time* of such observations will prove an unending pleasure to the observer and will preserve for his use many facts which he may want to compare with the observations of others or with later observations of his own, or to use for publication. Details, the very things one wants later, soon blur in memory, and can not then be used as facts. Careful data of weather conditions prior to the appearance or disappearance of any species is needed. Local food conditions, types of cover, topography, all bear on the problems we are studying and enrich any notes which are offered to the public.

Clover Leaf Trap.—A very excellent trap recently devised is the "clover leaf" described in *The Auk* for July, 1924, p. 461. Dr. Clifford H. Wood, of Glendora, California, worked out the same plan independently in the early summer and used it successfully for Black-headed Grosbeaks. He simply took a strip of $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch mesh chicken wire, 8 inches wide and 12 feet long, bent it into three-leaf clover form, attached the ends, and topped the "leaves" with $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch hardware cloth. At each indentation a small funnel was made by cutting half way up and pushing the ends inward enough to make an entrance. One needs a door in one leaf, and a gathering cage. The simplicity of construction of this trap is apparent at once.

Symposiums.—1. Returns. In the coming January issue I should like to publish a complete list to November 1, 1924, of all "returns" to stations within the Western Province. Will each bander please forward to me at once the complete date record of all migrants that have returned to his station after an absence of a season, and of each non-migrant which has continued to repeat from one breeding season to another. The following actual records at Altadena suggest a simple form for such report:

Golden-crowned Sparrow	6645	ad	1922, Feb. 2, 4, Mar. 11, Dec. 5, 22; 1923, Jan. 31, Apr. 15, 25, Oct. 31, Nov. 1; 1924, Feb. 1.
House Finch	52060	juv	1923, July 21, Oct. 21; 1924, Apr. 17, July 12, Sept. 19.

This, by the way, is a very effective method of keeping one's own record, best where each species has its separate pages. Your reports should, of course, give the locality.

2. Migration. *Zonotrichia leucophrys*, subsp., and *Zonotrichia coronata*. Will those who were alert for the arrival of the white-crown and golden-crown waves and made a memorandum of their first appearance, forward details, including exact location of first record with description of local associations, altitude, and general topographical relationships.

3. Baits. Of direct interest to western banders will be a tabulated list of baits which have been used with success within the Western Province. Will each bander please send in a list of the baits used at his stations, the birds which have been attracted by each sort, and observations of interest in regard to baits and their use.

4. Traps. In like manner any new trap ideas or applications of traps by western banders should have early description in this column.

As copy must be written up in November, an early response will be appreciated.

Thurber Juncos Banded in the San Bernardino Mountains.—From August 17 to 24, 1924, banding operations were carried on at Bluff Lake by Miss Jessica A. Potter, Mrs. Ella H. Ellis, Mrs. Law and myself. Bluff Lake is a near-level meadow at 7500 feet altitude in the San Bernardino Mountains of southern California. In late summer it is the assembling place for great numbers of ground feeding birds, among which Thurber Juncos (*Junco o. thurberi*) probably outnumber all the rest.

Each day, except on August 23, Miss Potter and Mrs. Ellis trapped during the latter half of the afternoon at a single station (Fuller's Gulch), on the south edge of the meadow near its east end. They worked on opposite sides of the shallow arroyo, in which there was water. On August 17 and 24 Mr. Wright M. Pierce assisted. Much of the time, 22 Potter Traps and 2 Western Traps (6 compartment) were used. Finely ground "chick feed" was used as bait.

At first the birds paid little attention to the bait, with a consequent paucity in birds caught. After each day's work bait was scattered about the spots where traps were used. By the third day the Juncos had learned to look for the chick feed and after that the banders were kept busy. The portion of the meadow where operations were conducted had been made fallow by cattle and ground rodents, and bait was conspicuous against the dark earth. Juncos seemed to feed over these fallow areas with as much interest as they did grassy areas, and spent much time in and about the fields of "skunk cabbage" (*Veratrum*) which was at this time laid flat by frost. The work day by day is outlined in the following tabulation:

	FULLER'S GULCH				ELLIS				POTTER			
	Adult	Juvenal	Total	Repeats	Adult	Juvenal	Total	Repeats	Adult	Juvenal	Total	Repeats
August 17	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0
18	6	8	14	0	0	2	2	0	0	2	2	0
19	4	14	18	2	5	13	18	2	5	13	18	2
20	8	37	45	18	9	18	27	8	9	18	27	8
21	0	14	14	15	5	24	29	9	5	24	29	9
22	1	12	13	15	7	7	14	16	7	7	14	16
24	0	10	10	51	2	13	15	27	2	13	15	27
	19	96	115	101	28	78	106	62	31	82	113	68
At other stations	1	4	5	3	3	4	7	6	3	4	7	6
Totals	20	100	120	104	31	82	113	68	31	82	113	68

On August 24 Mrs. Myrtle S. Edwards joined our party and banded four Juncos at nearby new stations. Later, on September 4, 5, and 7, Pierce again trapped at Fuller's Gulch and banded 62 more Juncos and retook 71 individuals which had been banded by Ellis, Potter and Law.

Of the birds that Mrs. Ellis banded, she recorded 16 $\frac{2}{3}$ per cent as adult, or 1 adult to 5 young. Miss Potter's banding yielded over 27 per cent of adults, or 1 adult to 3 young. The daily take varied from 50 per cent of adults to 100 per cent of juvenals: a splendid illustration of the futility of averages when applied to bird populations and based on individuals captured.

The personnel of these flocks of Juncos must be purely fortuitous at this season. Family ties seemed to be entirely broken except for an occasional late-born youngster. The groups, if they can be called groups, were constantly milling about over any part of the meadow, and they did not leave a spot in the same order or numbers in which they arrived. From numbers feeding on open ground scattering individuals frequently left without disturbing many which remained. But when, as happened every little while, the sharp alarm bark of ground squirrels started a general stampede, every Junco in the meadow dashed to the nearest pine cover, and after a few minutes drifted back into the meadow like falling autumn leaves.

We noted a daily flight toward the meadow over and among the pine tops of the nearby slopes on the south. This began in the dim morning twilight and continued for an hour or so. We received no impression that there was any definite return movement. It was as if there was a daily influx to the big meadow of families which had become ripe for travel. At evening dusk Juncos were going to roost in numbers in the foliage of the pines that border the meadow.

Lower down, at his cabin on Red Ant Creek, at about 6600 feet altitude, on the slope south of Bear Lake and about a mile west of Pine Knot (post-office), Pierce banded 186 Juncos between August 3 and September 12 and handled 215 repeats. With these were the following:

Band A6397, Ellis, Bluff Lake, August 21.

Retaken by Pierce, Red Ant Creek, August 27, 29, 30, 31, and September 1.

- 98738, Ellis, Bluff Lake, August 18.
Retaken by Pierce, Red Ant Creek, September 10.
- A8051, Potter, Bluff Lake, August 21.
Retaken by Pierce, Red Ant Creek, September 10 (twice).
- A6490, Pierce, Bluff Lake, September 5 and 7 (twice).
Retaken by Pierce, Red Ant Creek, September 10 (twice) and
September 12.

From Bluff Lake, Pierce's banding station at Red Ant Creek is about two miles east and a mile north, and the immediate drainage is north and west of north. A line drawn from Bluff Lake to the Red Ant Creek station would cross several canyons which empty into Bear Lake. One might expect a ground feeding bird of riparian preferences to drift down water courses as it retires from the high mountains. The recoveries recorded above, however, indicate indifference to local topography and a drift eastward across canyons and toward the desert. The record is in itself a meager one to be sure, 4 recovered out of 314 Juncos banded at Bluff Lake, and possibly indicates only one radius of a general scatter, but it is a gratifying start and indicates the possibility in quantitative banding when stations become numerous.

Of only less interest is the fact that Pierce saw two banded Juncos at Bluff Lake September 28. Why do some go and others remain?—J. EUGENE LAW, *Altadena, California, September 30, 1924.*

EDITORIAL NOTES AND NEWS

The editors of THE CONDOR are fortunate in being able to count on ready help in time of special need. Right now, we are indebted to our fellow Cooper Club member, Mr. Frank N. Bassett, for preparing the volume index, which terminates the present issue.

Two books lately published by H. F. & G. Witherby (London, 1924), and which should prove of interest to American bird students, are Dr. John M. Dewar's "The Bird as a Diver" (8vo, 173 pp.) and Dr. George C. Low's "The Literature of the Charadriiformes from 1894-1924" (8vo, 220 pp.). Two offerings of more diverse aim and content in the same general field could hardly be imagined. Dewar's book deals with the behavior of living birds and limits the subject further to the underwater activities of diving fowl. The author records the duration of 5991 dives, of 23 species—ducks, cormorants, grebes, loons, alcids, and coot. Figures in several other respects are given, and a definite "time-depth relation" is worked out. Incidentally, it appears that the Little Auk is the most efficient diver. Low's book is systematic as well as bibliographic, and brings the history of the one Order dealt with, the shore-birds, down, from the year of completion of volume XXIV, 1896, of the British Museum Catalogue of Birds, to the end of 1923. Any student essaying to do thorough work with the shore-birds must henceforth be supplied with this important help. The two Witherby books just no-

ticed show each of them careful work both in compilation and printing.

Speaking further of bibliography, there is real sport in collecting titles in the field of some selected subject. There is mental activity of a very pleasant sort in seeking out what has been written in a particular field, down through time, as the subject has developed. The "hunt" results in a growing "collection" of titles (each supplemented by one's own critical or explanatory notation, which may become a brief digest of the article in important instances). There is a real thrill when the pursuer gets a clue to some obscure title and "runs it down," to find that it may be of much importance, systematically, biographically or historically—or, on the other hand, worthless! It is astonishing how often the seeker finds that presentations, theories, ideas, and sentiments appearing in our current literature have been anticipated, perhaps not once but many times. It is a good antidote for any prideful tendency that one may have toward announcing "discoveries" to find now and then that his own supposed discovery has been set forth long ago and has, perhaps, been published to the world in better language than he could himself employ.

The growing appeal of natural history to people of otherwise widely diverse interests is shown on the Pacific Coast by the increasing activity of a number of societies devoted to various branches of this