

March, 1925

WITH THE BIRD BANDERS

valuable contributions, but we must not lose sight of other phases only possible through the coöperation of many. Only by such means can the seasonal transfer of populations be traced.

Proper development of the banding work, then, demands an exchequer which can provide secretarial service to care for an extensive correspondence, and which can pay for printing and distribution of circulars, report forms, summaries, etc. Other banding functions are demanding financial support.

The plan of organization contemplates the closest coöperation with the Cooper Ornithological Club and with the Biological Survey, without interference in any way with the functions of either. The set of records will, in a way, duplicate those sent to Washington, but in more condensed form, thus avoiding an excessive added burden on the operators who furnish to the Association a record of their work. As far as possible the Association will coöperate with the several Game Commissions in careful banding studies of the game problems.

It was to perfect such a program that the Western Bird Banding Association was organized at Los Angeles on January 11, 1925, and temporary officers were elected, as follows:

Secretary, Mrs. Harlan H. Edwards
Business Manager, Harold Michener
Vice-President, Wright M. Pierce
President, J. Eugene Law

Permanent organization was deferred until spring, when a meeting of all western banders will be called. The Association will devote its activities to the Western Province, that is, the states west of the 100th meridian, with the region south, and the provinces of Canada west of the 110th meridian, with the region north.

The membership roll is now open and all those interested in banding are invited to join. \$3.50 covers active membership in both the Cooper Ornithological Club and the Western Bird Banding Association, and \$1.00 covers associate membership in the latter only. Active members receive *THE CONDOR*, as do sustaining members who pay \$10.00. Life memberships are \$50.00.

New Banding Publications.—In October, 1924, Bulletin no. 1 of the Eastern Bird Banding Association was published, with John Treadwell Nichols as editor. While it is brief, three pages of banding notes, and two pages of roster, it started a new departure. It is the first serial to appear in America devoted primarily to banding activities. The number of well-known ornithologists in its list of 102 members indicates the place that banding work is taking in the East. A splendid feature, which may well be perpetuated, lies in the brief suggestive and supplementary notes which the editor has appended to two of the items.

Under the editorship of Charles L. Whittle, the first number of the Bulletin of the Northeastern Bird Banding Association appeared in January, 1925. It is to be issued quarterly. We like its neatness and its careful editing. This number contains three particularly "meaty" contributions to bird life-histories, all the result of careful observations in connection with banding operations. There is, also, a roster which lists 352 members, of whom 128 maintain banding stations.

The front cover of the Bulletin pictures a Chickadee in the act of weighing itself on a specially constructed scale. We will be interested in a description of this.

Among the Banding Stations.—Perhaps the most outstanding development in trapping technique for 1924 was the general adoption of some form of water trap. Almost any type of trap catches birds when it covers a dish or pool of water where birds habitually come to drink and bathe.

In this way Mr. and Mrs. Harlan H. Edwards, of Altadena, California, have "brought to band" with Potter traps 54 Audubon Warblers, 13 Siskins and 26 Green-backed Goldfinches during December and January. Of their 8 Western Bluebirds, some, at least, came for water, though a suet-baited trap caught the first ones. All of these birds have rather consistently ignored food-baited traps in the West.

In the heart of Pasadena, California, a Clover-leaf Trap baited with a mixture of "bird seed", sunflower seed, walnuts and mush, with a dish of water outside, has yielded Mr. and Mrs. Harold Michener 145 California Purple Finches since January 1. As 565 of the finches have been taken out of the trap, there is an average of nearly four times for each bird. This trap is on the ground under deciduous trees.

Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Barr, of South Pasadena, California, report 38 Cedar Waxwings banded, all caught with a drop trap over water.

At Wright M. Pierce's station in Claremont, California, we suspect that water has been responsible for a good list of California Purple Finches and Cedar Waxwings, although he also keeps in a corner of each trap all sorts of things from the kitchen, such as fruits, tomato, lettuce, meat, and bread, as well as seeds and raisins. Quite likely the immediate presence of deciduous trees is a factor influencing the presence of the Purple Finches and Waxwings.

So far as I know the first water trap in the West was used at the station of Mrs. G. Maurice Crow, at Glendora, California, where a trap set over a watering trough immediately proved irresistible to Audubon Warblers and Hermit Thrushes.

Mr. Johnson A. Neff, at Corvallis, Oregon, banded 148 juncos in the last three months of 1924. He reports the Shufeldt Junco outnumbering the Oregon Junco about 25 to 1, using specimens identified by Dr. H. C. Oberholser for comparison. Next in importance were 33 Song Sparrows (not differentiated from the Rusty, if different) and 17 California Purple Finches.

Emergency Supply of Bands.—Owing to the time required for a return communication from Washington, an emergency supply of bands has been deposited in the West. Banders should continue to order their supplies of bands from Washington in advance of their needs; but when, as may well happen, a wave of birds suddenly exhausts the bands on hand, enough will be sent from the emergency supply to carry over until those ordered from the east can arrive. Address such emergency requests to J. Eugene Law, Altadena, California, stating probable needs till new supply comes.

Symposiums.—Responses with data asked for under "Symposiums" (CONDOR, vol. 26, 1924, p. 232) were disappointingly few. Some particularly good data, however, were received and all of it is being carefully tabulated and preserved and will be published when the quantity warrants. Obviously, to trace great annual waves, such as occur in the migration of the Golden-crowned and Gambel and Nuttall sparrows, a quantity of confirmatory data is necessary. In this, every one can help, whether a bander or not; but of course without the bands only the pace of the van and rear guards can be traced, with no certainty that these are not "leap-frogging". Advice of any definite impressions giving the date when these forms are last seen this spring will be appreciated.

Analyses of Banding Records.—As banding work progresses, special interest attaches to simple displays which will give the operator a comprehensive idea of what is going on at his own station. The mere list of birds banded and of repeats taken assumes intensive value when arranged in tabulations which reveal seasonal changes in local population. Each style of tabulation or graph seems to present some different aspect for consideration, not brought out in the others. Obviously, every bird banded and every repeat recorded adds to the value of such analyses.

Methods for analyzing banding data are developing rapidly. This column will welcome brief descriptions of any new ideas that are developed. Some already in use in the Southwest are here presented.

1. **Calendared graphs.** Many are using a "quadrille" ruled sheet, large enough to provide a vertical column of squares for each day of the period under study. Mr. Harold Michener brought to notice such sheets, 11 x 16½ inches, used in business analyses, which provide a column for each day in the year with the dates printed across the top, and which have the horizontal ruling in 5- and 10-line groups. These sheets are sold under the Codex trade name "One year by days."

Allowing 5 lines to a bird (=band no.), 5 years are provided for. In the proper squares the dates of appearance of the banded bird are recorded by half circles or half squares for nestlings, hollow circles or squares for immatures, and solid circles or squares for adults. A tiny point at the upper right corner for ♂ and at the lower left for ♀ amplifies the record. Only individuals of one species are entered on a sheet.

Mr. and Mrs. Harlan H. Edwards use a similar form slightly more condensed, known to the trade as "Lefax no. 108." Mr. Edwards suggests that a second 5-year period can be superimposed on the first by the use of a different colored ink, when a bird persists that long.