

observations of the species, and especially the observation which prompted this article, there seems to be good reason to believe that the feeding of this juvenile Cowbird was not accidental, but was occasioned by a latent instinct to feed its young. There seems to be no evidence that the laying of eggs in other birds' nests came from a lazy instinct, but rather, as Hudson has said, with an abundance of nests and the fact that two females often lay in the same nest, this habit seems to have grown until we have the Cowbird laying exclusively in the nests of various other species.

It is evident that there is much to be learned as to the existence of additional instances, among several species of strictly parasitic Cowbirds, of practices indicating that they once possessed the normal nesting-instincts common to the vast majority of birds, for I believe it will be generally agreed that in no other reasonable way can the present habit of these birds be accounted for.

Brookline, Mass., March, 1925.

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## RECORD OF BIRD-BANDING DURING 1924

REPORTED BY MRS. ALICE B. HARRINGTON, RECORDING  
SECRETARY

OUR members during 1924 banded birds to the number of 12,463. The number of species and subspecies (races) amounted to 69, nine of which have ranges outside the territory of this Association. Banding records of such birds have been reported to us on account of the fact that not a few members reside in the areas covered by other banding associations. These nine birds are: California Purple Finch, House Finch, Arkansas Goldfinch, Gray-headed Junco, Pink-sided Junco, Intermediate Junco, Western Tree Sparrow, Western Lark Sparrow, and Tufted Titmouse.

Of the birds banded during the year, ten species make up a very large proportion. These, arranged in the order of abundance, are: Common Tern, Eastern Song Sparrow, Slate-colored Junco, Purple Finch (*Carpodacus p. purpureus*), Chickadee, Black-crowned Night Heron, Chipping Sparrow, Tree Sparrow (*Spizella m. monticola*), American Goldfinch, and Roseate Tern.

Returns for the year number 763, of which 119 were Purple Finches, or 15.59 per cent.