

esting to have this subject of White-throats returning brought up at the A. O. U. meeting in New York, and to find that my experiences tallied with some of the other co-operators.

	BANDED	RETURNED	REPEATED
Wood Thrush (<i>Hylocichla mustelina</i>)	11	3	4
Catbird (<i>Dumetella carolinensis</i>)	60	3	8
Robin (<i>Planesticus m. migratorius</i>)	36	3	5
Song Sparrow (<i>Melospiza m. melodia</i>)	36	1	11
Junco (<i>Junco h. hyemalis</i>)	63	2	12
White-throated Sparrow (<i>Zonotrichia albicollis</i>)	104	1	47
Tree Sparrow (<i>Spizella m. monticola</i>)	17	2	6
Chickadee (<i>Penthestes a. atricapillus</i>)	36	2	27

—MARY E. F. HUBBARD, 81 Barnett Street, New Haven, Conn.

Tree Sparrow Returns.—On December 14 and 21, 1924, my husband and I banded seven Tree Sparrows (*Spizella m. monticola*), the group remaining at the station till March 8 to 10, 1925. Of these seven birds, three (42.85%) returned in 1925 and were taken on November 28th and 29th. These records appear to indicate the existence of a group enduring for two years, the number of returns naturally falling short of the maximum possible.—KATHERINE C. HARDING, Cohasset, Mass., December 26, 1925.

A Pair of Red-Breasted Nuthatches.—On arriving at our Banding Station at Cohasset, Mass., on November 27th, I found two Red-breasted Nuthatches (*Sitta canadensis*) making frequent trips into our "Pagoda trap" and carrying off sunflower seeds.

I banded the male, No. 34068A, at 11 A.M., and the female, No. 34069A, at 12.45 A.M. The male scolded and fought during the process, while the female made no fuss about it.

The two birds have remained at our Banding Station ever since and seem like a mated pair. It is their custom to visit the feeding-tray at the same time, one alighting on the wire ready to enter when the first one leaves. Occasionally they both enter at once. If one bird is trapped, the other one shows concern for its companion's plight and alights on the wire sides of the cage.

In spite of their diminutive size, they are quite pugnacious. If a Chickadee is in the way when one of the Nuthatches enters the Pagoda, it is chased away unceremoniously and has to wait its turn.

This note is to call attention to the fact that the birds appear as though mated, as is so frequently observed at this season of the year in the case of the White-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta c. carolinensis*), a pair of which has, indeed, been known to remain together throughout the winter.*—KATHERINE C. HARDING, December 26, 1925.

"Sight Return" of Junco Number A6196.—Upon looking out of the window at my banding station on December 19, 1925, I saw four or five newly-arrived banded Juncos (*Junco h. hyemalis*) in front of the ground trap some ten feet distant. All these five birds were probably returns, and

* "Notes from a Peterboro, N. H., Banding Station," by Helen Granger Whittle, Bulletin of the Northeastern Bird-Banding Association, Vol. 1, p. 65.

certainly one, a male, was, because on its right tarsus there was a band colored "baby blue." This discovery gave me a real thrill, because I had entirely forgotten that I had ever placed such a band on a Junco. An inspection of my records showed that I had banded a single Junco with an enameled band of this color, eight months and fifteen days previously, (April 5, 1925). I expect later to check up this sight return by trapping the bird, but the record is doubtless valid since no other bander is using colored bands, at least in the territory of our Association.†

This record is of interest since it is the first one of the kind of which I have knowledge. It is of importance because of the durability shown by the enamel used, which appears to have a much greater lasting quality than was anticipated. I have felt that the greatest value of colored bands will occur during periods when the bird population is most stationary, that is during nesting-time and the three winter months. If the use of these bands be carefully safeguarded by appropriate regulations, their chief utility will perhaps lie in the added facility with which certain bird units can be studied. By these are meant, mated pairs (the sexes often having distinguishing colored bands), family groups (the parents and young having identifying colors), and groups in general. By their use a very great lessening of the handling of birds is made possible. Sight records, among other things, save the banders' time, and lessen the disturbance of the birds caused by frequent retrapping and rehandling, thereby insuring more normal bird behaviour at stations, a matter of importance.

It should be stated that to obtain the best results from the use of colored bands operators should have a lens, say a Coddington magnifying about six times, with which to read the enameled figures, and a good bird-glass of low magnification (about four times) with which to enlarge the circle within which it is possible to distinguish the colors.—C. L. WHITTLE, Cohasset, Mass.

Apparently Unusual Returns of Chipping Sparrows.—During the last four years I have banded one hundred and sixty-seven Chipping Sparrows (*Spizella p. passerina*) at my station in Cohasset, Mass. A fair proportion of these were nearby nesting birds and their young, the parent birds in part repeating throughout the nesting season. When September and October arrive, a small number of returns not previously taken are noted. Such returns may repeat once or twice, or not at all.

So, too, in April and May, at the time of the spring migration, other returns are noted which similarly may repeat once or twice, or not at all.

The following table shows at a glance all the information I possess about ten such returns, and the question arises as to what inferences, if any, are warranted by the facts.

<i>Band Number</i>	<i>Banded in 1924</i>	<i>Returned in 1925</i>	<i>Repeated in 1925</i>
CASE I			
50182	Sept. 13	Sept. 8	
50185	Sept. 15	Oct. 6	Oct. 18
A9627	Oct. 3	Oct. 1	Oct. 12
A9646	Oct. 8	Sept. 26	Oct. 1
A9648	Oct. 8	Oct. 1	

† On December 24, 1925, this bird was again seen at my station. It appears appropriate to designate a record of this kind as a "Sight return repeat."