

grackles seem to be a very friendly bird, and one can almost get near enough to catch one. In the lower section of our County near the river there are many of these birds, but away from the water I have never seen one."

These two recoveries give a little added weight to Floyd's theory of the southwesterly migration along the Atlantic Coast.—MABEL GILLESPIE, Glenolden, Pennsylvania, November 3, 1929.

Returning Western Birds.—It is important to enumerate the species and races of birds which return to their nesting-grounds or to their wintering-grounds, and more particularly, from a biological standpoint, to the same spot where they were born, nested, or wintered. When a group of birds wholly or in large part returns to the same spot, either to nesting- or to wintering-grounds, the biological significance of such behavior increases greatly.

In *News from Bird Banders*, published quarterly by the Western Bird Banding Association Vol. IV, Oct. 1929, p. 33, John McB. Robertson writes that Carl Levingston, of Redlands, California, has had returns of fifty-one Gambel's Sparrows, five Golden-crowned Sparrows, one Fox Sparrow (race not given), 10 Song Sparrows (race or races not given), and nine Audubon's Warblers. The nesting- and wintering-ranges of these species are indicated on small-scale maps in the "Field Book of Birds of the Southwestern United States," by Wyman and Burnell, from which we learn that the Gambel's, Golden-crowned, and Fox Sparrows, and Audubon's Warblers were on their wintering-grounds when banded. From Levingston I have secured more detailed information regarding the years the birds were banded and returned, as well as other data of interest, which perhaps can be intelligibly condensed in tabular form as follows:

| Species | Scientific Name | Number Banded | Season of Banding | Number Returns | Season Returning | Per cent Returning | Remarks |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------|-------------------|----------------|------------------|--------------------|--|
| Gambel's Sparrow | <i>Zonotrichia l. gambeli</i> | 106 | 1926-27 | 18 | 1927-28 | 17.00 (approx.) | During 1928-29 7% returned. |
| Gambel's Sparrow | <i>Zonotrichia l. gambeli</i> | 279 | 1927-28 | 46 | 1928-29 | 16.50 | |
| Golden-crowned Sparrow | <i>Zonotrichia coronata</i> | 17 | 1927-28 | 5 | 1928-29 | 30.00 (approx.) | |
| Fox Sparrow | <i>Passerella iliaca</i> | 2 | 1927-28 | 1 | 1928-29 | 50.00 | Race not given. |
| Audubon's Warbler | <i>Dendroica a. auduboni</i> | 57 | 1926-27 | 3 | 1927-28 | 5.30 (approx.) | Of these three returns, one was a return-2 W in 1928-29. |
| Audubon's Warbler | <i>Dendroica a. auduboni</i> | 45 | 1927-28 | 8 | 1928-29 | 17.77 | |

The word "return" may be used in the manner in which it has been employed by the *Bulletin of the Northeastern Bird-Banding Association* and also to cover cases of returns having somewhat different ornithological significances, such as appear in Mrs. Gillespie's paper in this number of *Bird-Banding*.

Regarding these returns, Levingston writes: "In all cases these birds returned the following winter [after they were banded] to the same place, not varying one hundred yards." He writes also that his use of the word return is as follows: "A return in my usage is that a bird has been recaptured the following winter—Example:—A bird [migrant] may have been banded in March, 1927, and recaptured in October, 1928. There has been time enough for the bird to have raised young and come back again to winter quarters."

Whereas many returns of the White-crowned Sparrow have been published (see *Technical Bulletin* No. 32, by Frederick C. Lincoln), data appear to be lacking as to the race or races making up the total, since they are tabulated under the name *leucophrys*. Some of Levingston's records, therefore, are of special interest since the race of the White-crowned sparrow, *gambeli*, is known. In case of the Audubon's Warbler returns, the migration indicated may well have been to nesting-grounds situated at cool elevations in the vicinity of his banding station, for, as is well known, some birds of this species gain necessary nesting-conditions both by seeking high altitudes near by in southern California and by long migrations northerly.
—C. L. WHITTLE.

Remarkable Returns.—Mrs. Elizabeth L. Burbank, of Sandwich, Massachusetts, reports that during May, 1929, she had seven Chipping Sparrow returns out of twelve banded in 1928, or 58.33 per cent, a remarkable record. Four Chipping Sparrows nested close to her station during 1929, three of which repeated several times in May, and two repeated in July. It is probable that other returns continued their migration to places too far away for them to visit her traps during the nesting-season. It may well be that these birds nested near by, but farther away than their ranging distance during the nesting period. It is hoped that a thorough trapping of all nesting birds about a station, involving several acres or even more, will be undertaken to throw light on the distribution of say nesting Chipping Sparrows taken as returns earlier in the season. In this connection, the degree of sociability practised by Chipping Sparrows and other species, as shown by their nests, is well worth determining.

Mrs. Burbank also reports the first instance of a returning Myrtle Warbler and also the finding of a second bird of the same species dead on a "tar road" about half a mile from her station, presumably killed by an automobile. The data on these two birds follow:

No. A80338, male, banded March 12, 1927. Returned, April 19, 1929.

No. A80337, male, banded March 12, 1927. Found dead, April 2, 1929.

As this species does not nest in Sandwich, the two birds banded on March 12, 1927, when migrating north, were captured in April, 1929, again on their way north to their nesting-grounds, that is, they were *migrating* returns, as Mrs. Gillespie calls them, and the suggestion is made (see her article in this number) that returns of this sort be represented by Return-1 M. N., that is, a migrating return-1 going north.

It is gratifying to report instances of this sort, the first of the kind, of which we need many more if the details of aspecies' migration route are to be determined.—C. L. WHITTLE.