

GENERAL NOTES

A Banded Adult Common Cormorant.—On July 25, 1930, Mr. George Jones, of Harrington Harbour, Quebec, and I were engaged in banding nestling Common Cormorants (*Phalacrocorax carbo carbo*) in the only colony of these birds on the north shore of the Gulf of St. Lawrence. This colony is situated on the cliffs of Lake Island, Saguenay County, Quebec, and is about a mile and a half east of Cape Whittle, which is the southwestern extreme of Lake Island. The adult Common Cormorants in this colony are often very bold in protection of their young when they are visited by human beings, and frequently remain perched at or near their nests while a human intruder is within a few feet of them, in a few cases even until he is so close that the bird is able to strike him.

As Mr. Jones approached one of the nests to secure the young for banding purposes, he clearly saw a band on the bare tarsus of an adult Common Cormorant that was perched on a ledge of rock beside the nest. At the time of making this observation he was only eight or ten feet distant from the bird, which enabled him to see the band distinctly, and showed also the bird's reluctance to leave the place, which was no doubt due to a strong parental instinct. Mr. Jones immediately called out to me that he saw "an old one with a band on," but his shout put the banded bird to flight, and, although I was only a few yards distant, I did not see the band.

In reply to an inquiry Dr. W. B. Bell, of the Biological Survey, informs me by letter dated October 14, 1930, that, up to that time, the only Common Cormorants banded in North America, so far as known to the Survey, were those banded by me in this very colony on Lake Island. I have banded nestling Common Cormorants, at this point in various years, beginning in 1923.

The observation by Mr. Jones of this banded parent Common Cormorant beside its brood of young appears to be, therefore, almost certain proof of a return by one of this species to its natal colony for nesting purposes. The capture, near St. Paul, Minnesota, early in 1930, of a specimen of *Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis* that had been banded in Holland on July 9, 1928 (*Der Vogelzug*, vol. 1, no. 3, July, 1930, as reviewed in *Bird-Banding*, o.s. vol. VI, no. 4, October, 1930, p. 195) points, however, to the bare possibility that the banded individual seen by Mr. Jones may also have been of European origin.—HARRISON F. LEWIS.

Protocalliphora Infestation of Barn and Bank Swallows.—A recent communication (July 21, 1930) from Frank J. Vejtasa, of Fairdale, North Dakota, transmitted some larvæ removed by him from nestling Barn Swallows (*Hirundo erythrogastra*) which have been identified by C. T. Greene, of the United States Bureau of Entomology, as *Protocalliphora splendida* Macq. The following quotation from Mr. Vejtasa's letter will be of interest:

"Yesterday while banding some Barn Swallows my attention was attracted to one of the birds by its heavy breathing. On examining it I found that there were worms clinging to its eyelids and to its throat, and two had entered into its nostrils, one being all inside and the other about half in. On removing the one . . . the other also came out far enough so that I could pull it out. I found that two other swallows also had some of these worms clinging to their eyelids and throats."

In a letter dated August 29, 1930, from Mrs. Marie A. Commons, of Crystal Bay, Minnesota, mention is made of an experience that she had in 1928, with what were apparently these same parasites. While commenting upon a recent banding expedition to a colony of Bank Swallows (*Riparia*

riparia) she recalled her former disagreeable experience in banding these birds when she found the birds "with fat maggots protruding from their nostrils." This year the birds that she banded (426) were found to be remarkably free from parasites of all kinds.

These flies are destructive to fledgling birds, and bird-banding coöperators should carefully remove all that are noted. "As the Bureau of Entomology is actively interested in the insects which attack birds, it is suggested that when maggots are found they be dropped into a vial containing alcohol, a tag attached bearing the date, locality, name of the host, and the name and address of the collector, and then forwarded to the Bureau of Entomology, Washington, D. C., for record and identification of the parasite involved."—FREDERICK C. LINCOLN, U. S. Biological Survey.

First Banding of the Little Blue Heron in New England.—During the summer of 1930, the Pleasant Valley Bird and Wild Flower Sanctuary, at Lenox, Massachusetts, had various opportunities to fulfill its mission in behalf of birds that were in need of hospital treatment. Our most notable patient was an immature Little Blue Heron (*Florida c. cærulea*), received on August 8th. Of the hundreds of these birds that were seen throughout southern New England this fall, the distinction fell to this heron of being the first of its kind ever banded in this region. The bird was captured at Pontoosuc Lake, Lanesboro, by some small boys who claimed to have watched it struggling to arise from the water. On being notified of the event, the writer lost no time in securing the bird. Its plumage was snowy white, and it seemed to be in excellent condition, except for the toes of the right foot being mangled. Apparently a snapping turtle was the cause of its struggles. During the next five days it showed a hearty appetite by consuming a liberal quantity of minnows, and on August 13th, seeming to be perfectly able to care for itself, it was given a band numbered A519951, and freedom. Situated about a third of a mile west of the Sanctuary is the little reservoir of the Hotel Aspinwall. It was here that we found the bird until August 21st, evidently well off and none the worse for its adventures.—NAURICE BROWN, Lenox, Massachusetts.

Parasites on Birds taken at Summerville, South Carolina.—A noteworthy feature of the banding season of 1930 at Summerville, South Carolina, was the marked prevalence of ectoparasites, especially of ticks. I stated in an article published in the *Bulletin* of January, 1929, that in 1928 twelve birds out of a total of 704 banded were recorded as having ticks. In 1929, out of a total of 658 birds banded, 38 were afflicted with ticks. In 1930, out of a total of 944 birds banded, 83 were recorded as having ticks. The increase as expressed in percentages is as follows: in 1928 1.7% of the birds banded were affected, in 1929 5.77%, in 1930 8.80%. Undoubtedly a considerable number of small ticks escaped observation, so that the actual percentages were probably larger than indicated. In view of the fact that the thicket-inhabiting birds are unquestionably more likely to be attacked by ticks than those which frequent open areas, the figures just given do not convey an adequate idea of the large proportion of such species as the White-throated Sparrow and Towhee which were acting as hosts of ticks. Thus, in 1929, 13% of the White-throats were noted as being tick-infested, and in 1930, 11.7%. With the Towhees the percentage was much larger than with any other bird, 20% being infested in 1929 and 47.12% in 1930. Final determinations have not been made yet of some of the ticks which were saved, but apparently *Ixodes brunneus* largely predominated. Birds taken in the later part of the winter