

In 1930 three pairs came to my station nearly every day during the nesting-season. This season (1931) I have also, as stated, three pairs of nesting Grosbeaks, five of them being banded birds of 1930. It was not possible to determine the actual pairs mated in 1930, but opportunity certainly existed for remating in 1931.

The first male to appear at my station in 1931 came on May 10th, a female appearing the following day. It is probable that the sexes migrated north together.—CHARLES L. WHITTLE, Peterboro, New Hampshire.

**Trapping Birds with Nesting-Materials**—The use of nesting-materials in traps was tried for the first time this season at the Clary banding station, with some success in the case of kingbirds, orioles, and Mockingbirds. The materials used were string, cotton, and hemp-rope ravelings.

Arkansas Kingbirds (*Tyrannus verticalis*) have nested for several years on the cross-arm of a transformer pole thirty feet west of our house. Practically all the material used in their nests the past two years has been supplied by Mr. Clary and myself. By watching the type of material being selected by the birds we have been able to supply all their needs, such as heavy string for anchoring the nest to the pole, and later cotton for lining and sides. When dried grasses were being hunted, we cut rope into convenient lengths and unravelled it. All of this material was placed in sight of the nest and under favorite perches used by the birds. A characteristic habit of these birds is to alight on a wire or post above the desired object, study it for a few minutes, and then sweep down taking it on the wing.

When one kingbird's nest was well along toward completion and the birds were accustomed to look to us for material, we began placing it nearer the house where we intended placing the trap. Let me say here that only the female, as we later learned, worked on this nest. As soon as she began coming fearlessly to the wires of the pergola two feet from the door, we wired the gathering-cage to a post, placed a tuft of cotton inside, and awaited developments. At first she tried hovering over and under the trap in an attempt to pull the cotton through the narrow mesh of the wire. We then nailed a piece of lath for a perch in front of the drop door and in a short time had her banded. The male was not seen until a week after the nest was completed. Three babies were banded from this nest, and the second day after they were out of the nest the mother was busy repairing it for a second brood.

With only one of the pair banded it has been easy to follow the activities of this royal family. Almost all feeding and care of the young has fallen upon the busy mother, the father's sole contribution to family life being that of an admirable watch dog and defender. We saw only two attempts by him to feed the young, but these were met with such a drubbing on the part of the female that he retired, nor did he offer to help in the repair of the nest for the second brood, as we had hoped. Additional material was supplied and taken for the second nest, but as the banded partner alone was concerned, we made no attempt to trap her again.

Noting female Bullock Orioles (*Icterus bullocki*) unraveling a tarpaulin covering on an outdoor bed, we placed a trap over the unravelled part and added a generous supply of cotton and string fastened so as to wave in the breeze. In a few minutes a Mockingbird was trapped. Every approach of the Oriole thereafter resulted in a declaration of war by the Mockers; so we placed the trap in a different location and the same afternoon had trapped and banded a female Oriole.

Nesting-material as well as wheat was placed in the trap that caught our first Crissal and Le Conte Thrashers this spring. What part the

nesting-material played in attracting these birds we cannot say, but we are inclined to believe that they entered for food.

Although our success with this method of trapping has not been as great as we had hoped for, we have found that it added a new interest to banding during this dullest part of the banding year, as well as adding to our list of banded birds the elusive adult Arkansas Kingbird.—MARJORIE D. CLARY, Coral Reef Ranch, Coachella, California.

NOTE.—A letter from Mrs. Clary, dated September 1, 1931, states that during the nesting-season of 1931 several more Kingbirds and Bullock Orioles were trapped by using nesting-materials.—EDITOR.

**A Chipping Sparrow Recovery**—Chipping Sparrow C50172, banded March 23, 1930, and taken by me at Summerville, South Carolina, as a return on March 9, 1931, was "found" at Zebulon, North Carolina, on May 11, 1931. Zebulon is about two hundred miles in an air line from Summerville. It is impossible to say whether this bird was migrating or preparing to nest in the locality at the time of its recovery.—WILLIAM P. WHARTON.

**A Correction**—In the July, 1931, number of "Bird Banding" I notice that the page-headings of my article place Summerville in North instead of South Carolina. The main heading at the beginning of the article is given correctly, but it is possible that the page-heading titles might mislead some readers. Will you therefore kindly publish this correction in the next number.—WILLIAM P. WHARTON.

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## RECENT LITERATURE

### **Der Vogelzug**, Vol. 2, No. 3, July, 1931.

This number opens with a paper by Thienemann and Schüz on new return records of banded Hooded Crows (*Corvus c. cornix*). Detailed compilations are given for birds banded as migrants in the Rossitten region. Data are given for thirty-four individuals arranged according to the areas in which they were recaptured. Thirteen were retaken fairly close to Rossitten; seven were recaptured in the region from East Prussia to Holland; two in Latvia; four in Estonia; one in Russia; seven in Finland; and one on Öland Island.<sup>1</sup>

The authors also report the results of experiments on Hooded Crows in which they used artists' green paint instead of bands as a method of marking. The results are not as satisfactory as banding, but because of the visibility of the paint, permitting identification in the field, the method is considered worthy of further technical improvement.

Return records of Hooded Crows banded as nestlings the previous year show that the birds tend to return to their birthplace or vicinity the following year.

Geyr von Schewepenburg writes on flight against strong contrary winds and observes that certain small birds, especially finches, frequently move against contrary winds, even against head-on storms. They not only do not avoid or flee from such atmospheric disturbances, but even seem to choose a course of flight directly into them, perhaps to make the most of them.

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<sup>1</sup>There are two islands called "Öland," one is in Sweden, and one in Schleswig, Holstein. The former is the one here intended.