

GENERAL NOTES

Starling-Banding in Central Ohio During 1932.—A total of 10,645 Starlings have been banded in the Columbus region from 1927 to January 1, 1933, by the cooperative efforts of various members of the Wheaton Club. A few birds have been captured during each month of the year, but all of the large bandings have been during four months—March, 4901; February, 2336; December, 1792; and January, 1568. Totals for years were as follows: 1927, 948; 1928, 1322; 1929, 4813; 1930, 449; 1931, 0; 1932, 3113. These bandings were by bands issued to Edward S. Thomas, Lawrence E. Hicks, George Wolfram, Roscoe W. Franks, William Ireland, Floyd B. Chapman, and C. Conklin. Mr. Thomas has summarized and presented the returns and other data obtained from the 1927–1930 bandings.

The banding work, after being dropped in 1931, has been resumed again to collaborate results of the early bandings, to obtain additional data on migration habits, to attempt to solve a long list of still perplexing problems, and to make specific studies of the behavior and physiology of the species. In 1932 a total of 3113 new bands were placed by the writer with the assistance of William Ireland, Floyd B. Chapman, and Walter Fassig.

Because of the extremely mild weather, it was impossible to band any Starlings during the winter of 1931–1932 until after the sudden cold snap in March. This cold weather concentrated the birds which were in our territory and delayed the migration for about twenty days after the usual date for the disappearance of flocking birds. An attempt was made to band as many as possible of the late migrants, ten bandings during the latter part of March yielding 1474 birds.

During December 1932 seven bandings in Franklin and Delaware counties totaled 1584 birds. Of these, 106 or nearly 7 per cent, repeated during the month. The percentages of returns at six bandings in December were 9, 6, 10, 10, 10, and 3. A total of 122, or 7.7 per cent of the birds banded in March, 1932, returned in December, 1932. Also returns were secured of 8 birds banded in early 1929. The percentage of recovery of Starlings from distant points is surprisingly low, usually being about 2 or 3 per cent.

It is hoped that several thousand more Starlings can be trapped during the first three months of 1933. About 60 adults and nestlings have been banded during the summer season, but it is necessary to band at least a thousand more to solve questions concerning our breeding population. The value of the banding work would be greatly increased if twenty-five banders in Ohio and the adjacent States could be induced to take up the work. Starling-banding becomes increasingly fascinating as the study progresses and gives one the exceptional opportunity of being able to follow the travels of an introduced migratory species. Frequently Starlings can be easily captured in numbers at night where they congregate in the towers of buildings or in cupolas of barns. The writer would be pleased to hear from other banders interested in working with this species.—LAWRENCE E. HICKS, Department of Botany, Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio.

Banding Provides the First Certain Record of the Eurasian Pintail (*Querquedula acuta acuta* L.) in North America.—About May 1, 1932, Mr. Samuel Hobbs, of Bradore Bay, Saguenay County, Quebec, shot, on a pond on the mainland near Bradore Bay, a male Pintail which bore a band inscribed as follows: "P. Skovgaard, Viborg, Danmark, V, 4720." The duck was plucked and eaten, but the band was saved and was shown to me in July, 1932, at which time I copied the inscription directly from it. Bradore Bay is situated on the north shore of the Gulf of St. Lawrence,