

fifty green bands on the right tarsus of fifty adult birds; on January 12, 1909, at Petermann Island twenty brown bands on adult birds and twenty pink bands on young ones. When the birds were coming back during October and November, 1909, at Petermann Island, we found, though with much difficulty, five adult birds wearing brown bands, being twenty-five per cent of the birds marked. But I could not observe at ease the birds of this rookery, as they were very shy at my approach. It may be possible that there were other banded birds which escaped observation, even all birds had not yet returned to the rookery at the time the "Pourquoi Pas?" was leaving Petermann Island on 15 November.

"These observations prove that the same birds returned year after year to the same rookery. We could not find any bird with pink bands, which proves that the young ones do not return to the rookery before they are two years old.

"On November 26, 1909, during our too short stay at Port Lockroy, we observed, though with much difficulty, as the birds were very shy, two Gentoo Penguins wearing green bands, which we had put on eleven months before. After our return to France we learned that in the beginning of 1911 some whalers, who had left their station at Deception Island for Port Lockroy, found under the birds killed, some wearing bands we had put on December 28, 1908."

Blue-eyed Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax atriceps*)

"Desiring to learn if the same Cormorants return to their old nesting-places, as do the Penguins, we marked on 12 January, 1909, at Petermann Island these birds in the following way: three blue bands on adult Cormorants, three females who were most easily to approach, and five green bands on young birds. During our stay at Port Lockroy on 28 December, 1908, we marked ten adult Cormorants with reddish brown bands and ten young birds with pink bands. On October 7, 1909, one of the pairs nesting at Petermann Island returned to their old nest. The female bird wore a blue band on her right tarsus which we had put on on 12 January. So it is certain that the same birds return year after year to the same rookeries. During our stay at Port Lockroy (Wienecke Island) on 26 November, 1909, we observed in the same rookery nine of the ten birds banded on 28 December, 1908. We did not see enough young birds to make out if there were among them some we had banded in 1908."—FR. HAVERSCHMIDT, Utrecht, Holland.

Sex ratio in the House Sparrow.—An interesting discussion of sex ratio in the Starling in the July (1934) *Bird-Banding* (Hicks), leads me to consider and place on record data on the sex ratio in the House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) at Garden City, New York. This is based on proportional counts by sight of birds about my banding station, and on birds banded, from January, 1930, through May, 1934, counts made in the seven months from November to May only, as from June to October birds in juvenal plumage occur which are indistinguishable from females.

The total counts for these months within this period amount to 7754, 4243 male and 3511 female, 55 per cent males.

Analyzing by months, we have for November, 778 males and 606 females, 56 per cent males; for December, 532 males and 404 females, 57 per cent males; for January, 420 males and 369 females, 53 per cent males; for February, 388 males and 396 females, 49 per cent males; for March, 828 males and 661 females, 56 per cent males; for April, 859 males and 628 females, 58 per cent males; and for May, 438 males and 447 females, 49 per cent males.

The total number of House Sparrows trapped and banded in these same

months (not counting young birds in May) is 229, 119 males and 110 females, 52 per cent males. The lower percentage of males here is presumably due to a disproportionately large number of males about the station already carrying bands.¹ Too few individuals are involved to give percentages satisfactory for comparison when analyzed, except perhaps for November (35 individuals), 63 per cent males; April (51), 53 per cent males, and May (83), 48 per cent males—74 per cent [having been banded in these three months, leaving only 26 per cent in the other four. The curve of birds banded in these three months has a May low close to that of the counts.

I am inclined to attribute the general unbalance in the above House Sparrow figures to a somewhat greater percentage of mobility of the males toward a given point (in this case a feeding and to some extent a nesting station.) This would give any other than chance concentration of birds a higher than actual percentage of males. The monthly figures for the total counts varying from 784 in February to 1489 in March are more or less correlated with the concentration of birds at the banding station, and the four months in which these counts exceed 900 give higher percentages than for the total period, the remaining three months, lower. If we were dealing with actual sex ratios, I can think of no reasonable way whereby the males could abruptly recoup their proportion between February and March. The curve of Starling percentages (Hicks) will be seen to run rather parallel to these for the House Sparrow, though higher.—J. T. NICHOLS, New York, N. Y.

Herring Gull Recovery from Panama.—Among the many recoveries from a total of more than twelve hundred Herring Gulls (*Larus argentatus smithsonianus*) banded at Duck Island, Isles of Shoals, on July 20 and 25, 1933, is one of outstanding interest. This gull was banded as B611058 on the 20th, by my friend Mr. James P. Melzer. On the following December 10th, when the bird was little if any more than six months old, it was shot at Bocas del Toro, Panama.

It is of great interest to record this distant, Central America, record in connection with those unusual recoveries listed in R. J. Eaton's paper "The Migratory Movements of Certain Colonies of Herring Gulls" (*Bird-Banding*, Vol. IV, No. 4, and Vol. V, Nos. 1 and 2), which gives no recovery for this species south of Alvarado, Vera Cruz, Mexico. Under date of May 24, 1934, Mr. Frederick C. Lincoln, of the Biological Survey, could give me no record of a recovery from a location so far south. The direct air-line distance from Alvarado to Bocas del Toro is about thirteen hundred miles; but the bird may have travelled by a more or less indirect route *via* the Gulf of Mexico, coming a greater distance along the coast. On the other hand, the bird may have followed the Florida Peninsular to Cuba and flown thence to Bocas del Toro, a much shorter distance. By latitude the point of recovery is approximately seven hundred miles farther south than Alvarado.—LEWIS O. SHELLEY, East Westmoreland, N. H.

A Few Herring Gull Recoveries.—The Austin Ornithological Research Station banded 221 juvenile Herring Gulls at Penikese Island, Massachusetts, on July 27, 1933. From these the following seven recoveries have been reported:

¹ Nichols, 1934, *Bird-Banding*, V (1), pp. 20-23.