

This pair of birds was taken as returns-1 and return-2 in 1935 and 1936 in nest boxes, feeding half-grown young. A147214 is at least eight years old.—RAYMOND J. MIDDLETON, Norristown, Pennsylvania.

**An Experience with a Homing Pigeon.**—A homing pigeon was released in Hagerstown, Maryland, to fly one hundred forty-seven miles northeastward to Allentown, Pennsylvania. Confused by a fog, it happened to come to my yard and was caught in a four-celled automatic bird-trap. I released the bird at once, but it remained in the yard and soon reentered the trap. The bird was given cracked corn, other seeds, water, and rest, and released. The next day it was tossed up about two hundred feet from the yard, but it at once returned and rested all day in a peach tree. I was not able to discover where it stayed each night, but a flashlight showed that it was not in my yard or the adjoining ones. Each morning it was waiting in the trap. The next day I carried it in a paper bag in an automobile across the Susquehanna River and released it five miles from our home. After resting a few minutes in a tree in the woods, it returned at once to our yard. The following day I carried it through two cities and threw it into the air behind an enormous pile of blast-furnace slag, ten miles east of our home, but without any circling to obtain the direction, it flew immediately over the slag, and two hours later I found it in the trap. The next day it was seen in our yard at 8 o'clock, and it was reported later in Allentown, eighty-two miles distant, at 5 P. M. It was always caught in the same trap and in the same quarter of it. All my efforts were directed to get it away from my yard and to get it going and keep it from getting acquainted with the neighborhood. I flew it each time on a full stomach, never when hungry. It left when ready. How was the bird able to return to my yard? Perhaps the expressions "homing instinct" and "homers" are not entirely correct.—HAROLD B. WOOD, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

**Winter Banding at Concord, New Hampshire.**—The winter of 1935-1936 was a poor one at my station, not many birds coming and those seeming trap-shy to an unusual degree. Returns of Tree Sparrows were as follows: B79727, banded February 24, 1929, recaptured February 4, 1936; B78670 banded January 14, 1933, recaptured February 14, 1936; 34-121707, banded January 25, 1935, recaptured February 14, 1936. One repeater spanned the season from January 12th to March 21st; but, as usual, a change in the visitors occurred in February, the break this year coming the 21st. Chickadees afforded one return, 34-121704, banded November 28, 1934, recaptured November 14, 1935; this species was trapped in two distinct groups, the first six from November 14 to December 3, 1935, and the second six from February 13, 1936, to February 16th. Two out of the first group repeated during the later dates, and it was these probably that were occasionally seen between times. Brown Creepers afforded two returns, L7561, banded November 27, 1933, recaptured February 13, 1936, and L70498, banded November 25, 1934, recaptured February 6, 1936. Other birds trapped were Hairy Woodpeckers, Downy Woodpeckers, a White-breasted Nuthatch, and a Golden-crowned Kinglet. Tree Sparrow F101213, which was banded here December 19, 1933, and returned January 31 and February 18, 1935, was found dead at Derby, Connecticut, March 1, 1935.—FRANCIS B. WHITE, Concord, New Hampshire.

**Maryland Yellow-throat Age Record.**—At my home banding station in Nashville, there have been several returns of the Maryland Yellow-throat (*Geothlypis t. trichas*).<sup>1</sup> Of the 137 individuals banded in the past four years, eleven were retaken in subsequent years—nine of them as returns-1, one as a

<sup>1</sup>Full specimens of the Yellowthroat are racially difficult to determine. I am using the above trinomial realizing that I may be in error.

return-2, and one as a return-3 and one a return-4. The details follow:—Numbers F91292, 34-8186, 34-87288, and 35-7833 were returns-1 the year after banding. No. H38889, adult female banded August 23, 1933, was not retaken until June 7, 1936, when at least four years old. No. H38832, adult male banded July 18, 1933, was not recaptured until July 31, 1935, his age then being at least three years. He was recovering from an injury to one side of his head; the wound was healing, but he had lost an eye. 35-7701, an immature male, banded September 21, 1935, was a return-1 on August 31, 1936; 35-7816, a female, banded August 3, 1935, was a return-1 September 8, 1936; and 35-7879, a female, banded September 12, 1935, was a return-1 on September 7, 1936. No. 34-8167, a young male banded August 15, 1934, was retaken July 28, 1935, and May 25, 1936. No. H17839, banded as an immature male September 9, 1932, was a return-3 on September 13, 1935, when three years old, and a return-4 September 19, 1936, now four years old.—AMELIA R. LASKEY, Nashville, Tennessee.

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## RECENT LITERATURE

(Reviews by Margaret M. Nice and Thomas T. McCabe)

The articles have been selected and arranged under subjects of importance to students of the living bird, and also for the purpose of suggesting problems, or aspects of problems, to those banders who wish to make the most of their unique opportunities.

Headings in quotation marks are the exact titles of articles or literal translations of such titles. Except in the case of books, which are always reviewed under their titles, headings not in quotation marks refer to general subjects, or are abbreviated from titles in foreign languages. References to periodicals are given in italics. Reviews by Mr. McCabe are signed with his initials.

### BANDING AND MIGRATION

**Banding in Switzerland.**<sup>1</sup>—This excellently-arranged report, giving a maximum of information in a minimum of space—age, sex, and distance and direction from place of banding, besides place and date of banding—shows much zeal on the part of Swiss banders. During 1934 and 1935, 49,460 birds were marked, of which 22,381 were nestlings. Birds ringed in the largest numbers were 9,109 Great Tits (*Parus major*), 7,714 Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*), and 3,546 Swallows (*Hirundo rustica*). Interesting age records are 9 years for a Common Buzzard (*Buteo b. buteo*), 8 years for a Great Tit, and 6 years for a Blue Tit (*Parus caeruleus*), while Mute Swans (*Cygnus olor*) have been recorded for 6 years on the same lake. As to Alpine Swifts (*Apus m. melba*), 5 birds banded in the nest in 1925 were breeding in the same locality 10 years later, and the same was true of a bird banded as an adult. Most records of the House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) show permanent residency, but an adult female banded June 20, 1934, was taken 125 kilometers southeast on October 29th. Data on many species show return of young to the birthplace.

**Results from Ringing Titmice.**<sup>2</sup>—The Great Tit is predominantly a permanent resident in Switzerland, yet there appears to be a regular migration of a few of the breeding birds, both old and young, to the Maritime Alps. Some of the birds present in winter have later been taken in Upper Austria.

**“Results from Ringing the Kestrel (*Falco t. tinnunculus*) in Switzerland.”**<sup>3</sup>—This species is both resident and migratory, often wintering in France. A female, banded as an adult in Switzerland, February 3, 1932, was killed April 10, 1935 in Sweden, 1,500 kilometers to the northeast. The oldest bird was 7 years old, but one in Germany reached an age of 9½ years.