

incubating bird seldom was unduly alarmed. The Woodcock appears to have a much greater fear of a dog than of a human intruder. Even in locating broods the dog used must be well-trained and carefully chosen, otherwise there will be the probability of its "breaking the point" and catching the adult or one of the young. A long rope, with the free end dragging, should be tied to the collar of the working dog so that when a point is made the animal may be tied immediately, thus preventing its charging forward at sight of the injury-feigning adult. The brood scatters at the alarm notes of the parent but the chicks are usually found without much difficulty.

In conclusion, mention may be made of two retakes that we have made of the birds banded in 1937. These were juveniles from the same brood and were tagged in Baring Township on May 21st with bands numbered 37-320452 and 37-320451. They were killed during the hunting season, when they were about five and one half months of age, and were still in the woods of this township. Although shot on October 27th and 29th respectively, both were taken in the same covert. It is interesting to note that the birds were killed near the end of the open season and at a time when the hunters were almost unanimous in the belief that only so-called "flight" birds from Canada were present.

---

### GULL SURVEY PLANS FOR 1938<sup>1</sup>

By ROBERT P. ALLEN AND JOSEPH J. HICKEY

The Cooperative Gull Project participated in last year by the Northeastern Bird-Banding Association and other organizations, will again band young Herring Gulls in colonies ranging from the Gulf of Saint Lawrence to Fisher's Island, New York. At the time of going to press, the 1938 plans are still tentative, but it is hoped that Gulls will be marked in ten colonies. In the proposed schedule below it will be seen that the color combinations differ from those of last season. This is done in order that the age of birds may be known, and obviously will be a means of gaining new and rather exact information on plumage changes, breeding age, etc.

Following are the combinations:

<i>Name of Colony</i>	<i>1937</i>		<i>1938 (Tentative)</i>	
		<i>Other Leg</i>		<i>Other Leg</i>
Razades Islands, P. Q.	Blue		Yellow	
	Blue		Aluminum	Yellow
	Aluminum			

---

<sup>1</sup>The organ of the Western Bird-Banding Association, *News From The Bird Banders*, for May, 1938, page 11, reports that the scope of the Alaska to California Cooperative Gull-banding Project for 1938 has been increased by colony banding of Glaucous-winged Gulls (*Larus glaucescens*) at Kodiak Island in Alaska and at three locations on Vancouver Island, British Columbia.—Editor.

St. Mary Islands, P. Q.	Aluminum Red Yellow		Yellow Aluminum	Red
Bonaventure Island, P. Q.	Yellow Yellow Aluminum			
Kent's Island, N. B. (adults)	Aluminum Red	Black	Red Aluminum	White
Kent's Island, N. B. (young)	Aluminum Red		Aluminum	Black Red
Muscongus Bay, Me.	Aluminum Yellow Blue		Blue Aluminum	Yellow
Duck Islands, Me.			Aluminum	Black Yellow
Heron Islands, Me.	Blue Yellow	Aluminum	Blue Aluminum	Black
Four Brothers, N. Y.			Blue Aluminum	White
Isles of Shoals, N. H.	Red Red Aluminum		Blue Aluminum	Blue
Penikese Island, Mass.	Aluminum Blue Red		Red Aluminum	Blue
Wicopesset Island, N. Y.	Aluminum Red Blue		Aluminum	White Blue

It will be noted that the Bonaventure Island colony has been omitted this year. It was felt that because of the small number of young Gulls available at this location the number of recoveries that could be expected would not justify the further use of colored bands. However, Great and Little Duck Islands, off Mount Desert, are added this year, as well as the Four Brothers Islands in Lake Champlain.

In watching Gulls next fall and winter, observers are urged to make careful notes on the approximate ratio of banded to unbanded birds. Such ratios may possibly serve as an index to the first-year Gull population in the Northeast. It is suggested that all first-year birds in a flock should be examined for bands one by one, counted in a systematic manner, and ratios based only on those individuals which have been definitely checked. This will make for greater accuracy. It has been our experience that the most frequent observational errors are due solely to failure to write down at once in the field the exact position of the colored bands. After a lapse of an hour or even a half hour several observers have been unable to recall whether they saw "red over blue" or "blue over red."

For the benefit of those who are unfamiliar with the plumage changes of the Herring Gull, the most reliable field marks (based on Dwight's *Gulls of the World*) are as follows:

(1) First year birds (brown birds): wing tips are solidly brown; tail feathers definitely brown throughout.

(2) Second year: tail shows a definite paling at the base. (Wing tips still solid brown; rest of bird may be paler and show considerable white on underparts.)

(3) Third year (almost adult): tail almost entirely white, with a dull black band toward the tip; primaries black, may show mirrors or white spots on each wing. (Only a single mirror to each primary feather.)

(4) Fourth year (adult): tail entirely white; the first and second primaries show two mirrors on each feather.

Many Gulls in second-year plumage, wearing bands placed on them in 1937, are now to be seen along our coasts. Careful plumage notes on these birds will be appreciated by the committee and may be forwarded to "Gull Survey" at the American Museum of Natural History, New York, N. Y., or at the New England Museum of Natural History, Boston, Mass.

Linnaean Society of New York.

---

#### JOINT MEETING OF BIRD BANDERS.

A joint session of the Bird Banding Associations and the American Ornithologists' Union will be held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the A. O. U., October 17-21, 1938, in Washington, D.C. Headquarters will be at the Hotel Raleigh. One three hour session will be devoted exclusively to papers on bird banding. All banders are urged to attend. Mr. James Lee Peters, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cambridge, Massachusetts, is in charge of the program.

---

#### GENERAL NOTES

**Migrating Swamp Sparrows at Groton, Massachusetts.**—The fall migration of 1937 was notable for unusually large numbers of some species. This increased volume was particularly noticeable in the case of Swamp Sparrows (*Melospiza georgiana*) here at Groton. From 1930 to 1936, two hundred eight Swamp Sparrows were banded at the Wharton Bird-Banding Station, an average of a little less than thirty per year. The highest number trapped in a given year in this period being sixty-five in 1936, and the lowest, eight in 1930. In the year 1937, by comparison, one hundred fifty-four individuals of this species were banded.

How these records were distributed by weeks over the period during which the species was caught in the traps, is shown in the accompanying graph, which illustrates the fact that the greatest number was caught in the period between the third week of September and the third week of October.

The Swamp Sparrow population apparently remained relatively stable until the last week of July, when an increase in the number banded took place. This increase, and other smaller additions that took place up to the third week in September, would seem to be attributable to the expected increase of juvenile birds. The peak which culminates in the first week of October is believed to illustrate the passing through of migrants, as is the lesser peak reached in the last week of October. Thus the increase in the number banded during the past fall points to an extraordinarily successful breeding season by this species on its