

GENERAL NOTES

Black-crowned Night Herons Feeding on Water.—In ornithological literature, mention is occasionally made of Night Herons alighting on the water. This appears to be a rare occurrence, however, and thus the following is of some interest.

On the evening of June 6th, 1943, I was driving along the shore of Crystal Lake, Newton, Mass., about 8:15 and saw a sizable bird alight on its surface. This lake is used for public bathing and has considerable depth. Daylight was fading and the sky overcast so I could not at once make an accurate identification. After stopping the car the bird arose from the water and I observed it to be a female or immature Night Heron. A male joined the first bird, and they both circled about but after once dropping to the surface of the lake the male flew to a tree where it remained while I was there. Its companion continued on the wing, and I saw it drop into the water seven times but never going beneath the surface. Apparently the bird secured food; once it rose with something in its bill, and after feeding continued to circle over the lake. The constant couring over the water was also unusual but the heron wheeled and dipped with ease and moved much like a Herring Gull in the air and on the water. When nearing the surface it extended its long legs straight down as it does when alighting on the ground or in a tree. At the end of fifteen minutes, the bird left the vicinity.—CHARLES B. FLOYD, Auburndale, Mass.

A Marked Migration Wave During the 1943 Spring Season.—The wave-like appearance and disappearance of birds during the migration season is well known. One of the most striking examples of a "tidal-wave" I have ever witnessed occurred at Mayville, North Dakota on April 9, 1943. The species under observation was the Slate-colored Junco, *Junco hyemalis hyemalis* (Linn.).

Examination of graphs of daily banding for the junco indicates that for the past three years a wave of junco migration has occurred on about this date, but has extended over a three or four day period. Below is a tabulation of the six day banding records for these waves. It appears that all of the movement spread over the three or four day period in other years occurred in one day this year.

TABULATION OF JUNCO BANDING DURING A SIX DAY PERIOD
IN 1941, 1942 AND 1943

	Date	1941	Year 1942	1943
April	5.....	3	-	6
	6.....	35	52	11
	7.....	No banding	60	11
	8.....	32	60	11
	9.....	34	26	102
	10.....	4	1	6

One hundred and two juncos were banded on April 9, 1943, eleven on the day preceding and six on the day following. Almost one-third of the juncos banded during the entire migration period were banded on this one day. One hundred thirty-one were banded in the eleven days preceding and one hundred eighteen in the twenty-one days following. In 1941 and 1942 this wave also accounted for approximately one-third of all juncos banded.

SUMMARY OF TRAPPING RECORDS FOR JUNCOS DURING FIRST TWENTY DAYS
OF 1943 SPRING SEASON

Date	Number Banded	Number of Repeat Records on a Date with the Date when the Birds were Originally Banded.
March 29.....	3	
30.....	14	
31.....	9	2-3/30/43
April 1.....	22	1-3/31/43
2.....	14	
3.....	23	1-4/ 1/43; 3-4/ 2/43
4.....	7	1-4/ 2/43; 2-4/ 3/43
5.....	6	1-4/ 1/43
6.....	11	1-4/ 2/43; 1-4/ 3/43; 1-4/ 5/43
7.....	11	1-4/ 6/43
8.....	11	1-4/ 6/43
9.....	102	
10.....	6	1-4/ 9/43
11.....	28	1-4/ 9/43; 1-4/10/43
12.....	8	1-4/10/43; 6-4/11/43
13.....	3	2-4/10/43; 2-4/11/43; 6-4/12/43
14.....	-	1-4/11/43; 1-4/13/43
15.....	6	2-4/12/32; 2-4/13/43
16.....	4	2-4/11/43; 3-4/12/43; 1-4/13/43
17.....	-	2-4/11/43; 2-4/12/ 3; 1-4/16/43

NOTE: Repeat records made on the day of banding not entered: a single bird may have repeated more than once on a given date, or on successive days.

The above summary of trapping records emphasizes the abruptness and magnitude of this migration wave. It also serves to indicate the nature of the movement when the repeat records are examined. Before April 9, about one in ten of the birds banded remained around the station and was caught at least one day later, while only two of the 102 birds banded on the ninth repeated at a later date. For the period following April 9, about one in three of the birds repeated at least one day later. A total of 115 repeat records was made for the season, only five of them involving the 102 birds banded April 9. These records seem to indicate that previous to April 9, juncos came into the area in small numbers and may have stayed around for several days. They all moved on April 9, so that no more repeats of birds banded before that date occurred. After that date the birds again moved in small groups and stayed in one place for some time. On April 9, the juncos came and left in rapid succession.

These trapping records are supported by field observations. When it appeared that an unusually large number of birds were about the traps in the early morning I decided to use them for laboratory study by the biology class at the State Teachers College. This class spent the hour from ten to eleven o'clock at the station watching the birds through the windows and observing banding operations. Incidentally, rank novices unbelievably caught their first birds with a drop trap! This procedure was also used by the nature study class between two and three o'clock. About eight hours were spent in rather close observation at the station. Several students spent extra time at the station during the day.

It was apparent from our observations that a flight of birds came in from the south-east and stopped to feed or rest. The automatic traps would fill and we would discuss whether to take two or three or wait to take four at once under the drop trap. When we went out to empty the traps the rest of the flock would leave

in a north-westerly direction. In about five to fifteen minutes the process would be repeated with another group coming in from the south-east. The rate of capture was approximately constant throughout the day without the morning and afternoon peaks common to trapping operations.

Probably not more than one in fifteen of the birds to alight in the trapping area was caught. If this estimate approximates the true situation it would mean that during the day about 1,500 birds crossed the trapping area which is about fifty yards wide. If the movements were nearly uniform over the Mayville region, and observations on other parts of the college campus and in other parts of town lead me to believe that we did not have any particular concentration of birds on the trapping area, then across a ten-mile strip about 500,000 birds moved northward on this one day! Assuming a like movement for the general region about three million juncos moved up the sixty mile wide Red River Valley of the North on this one day.—HAROLD C. BURDICK, State Teachers College, Mayville, North Dakota.

Crippled Birds.—The notes by Ralph W. Dexter in the July 1942 issue of BIRD-BANDING set me looking through my banding journal for records of injured birds. The following entries were for injuries not incident to banding which had healed or were definitely healing at the time of observation.

No. 140-25375 banded July 17, 1940; adult Bank Swallow with infection in eye which had destroyed the eyeball, feathers of the eyelids and area at the corner of the eye. The infection was discharging at the time of observation.

No. 40-157125 banded Oct. 7, 1940; adult White-throated Sparrow with left tarsus broken about in the middle, healed and set at a slight angle.

No. 41-82437 banded July 10, 1941; adult Bank Swallow with one eye infected, similar to No. 140-25375 but not as extensive when observed.

No. 40-157443 banded Oct. 10, 1941; Harris's Sparrow with tarsus completely broken off about 2/3 distance from proximal end, foot dangling by the tendon. The stump had healed over the end of the tarsus with a slight swelling; there was a small opening just large enough to let the tendon slip back and forth when the muscles of the leg contracted. I clipped the tendon close to the stump and it retracted through the opening. There was no indication of infection.

No. 42-23766 banded April 27, 1943; adult Slate-colored Junco with the hind toe of the left foot injured so that it did not open; the bird rested on the back side of the base of the toe which was slightly swollen. Because of lack of contact and wear the toe-nail had continued to grow. The distance across the arc of the toe-nail was 10 millimeters while the corresponding distance on the other foot was 6 millimeters. The other toes of the foot seemed to function normally.

Probably the most severe crippling that I know was reported to me by a local hunter. This was in a Ring-necked Pheasant. It was shot on the wing and when examined was found to have only stumps for legs. These stumps were brought to me and exhibited to biology classes. One leg had been amputated with about three-quarters inch of the tarsus remaining, the other just above the distal end of the tarsus. The stumps were healed and protected by tough scaly skin. The ends were somewhat enlarged. It seems probable that the bird was caught by a mowing machine just as it flew up. The hunter reported the bird to be in good flesh.—HAROLD C. BURDICK, State Teachers College, Mayville, North Dakota.

A Method of Banding Bank-nesting Swallows.—At the suggestion of Prof. O. A. Stevens I first tried capturing bank-nesting swallows at night by use of a flash light. Since the first attempts the technique has been modified so that it seems quite effective. Two hundred and four swallows have been captured and banded in a four hour period. A total of 1,216 swallows has been banded in three years and 38 live returns taken in the past two years.