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130 Washington Avenue, Chatham, New Jersey.

GENERAL NOTES

Two Interesting Age Records.—Blue Jay B272177, banded at Summerville, S. C., on March 18, 1934, was found dead about half a mile from the place of banding in early June, 1944. As the bird was an adult when banded, it must have been at least eleven years old when it died.

A banded male Cardinal has been reported as still coming to the feeding shelf of a farmer next door neighbor in Summerville on May 25, 1944. As no males of this species were banded there after the spring of 1936, it is fair to assume that this bird, also banded as an adult, is at least nine years old. He is reported as feeding his mate, which appears to be a young and vigorous bird.—WILLIAM P. WHARTON, Groton, Massachusetts.

Catbird Returns.—From May, 1937, to June, 1944, one hundred and eighty-six Catbirds were banded at the Ardmore, Pa., station. Twenty-eight individuals of this number returned, which represents about 15% of the number banded. The 28 individuals made a total of 48 returns.

While a 15% return is about the average expected in Catbird returns, yet this percentage would not have been reached in my Catbird returns had it not been for a fortunate capture of a special group of 13 Catbirds banded during the month of May, 1941. Seven of these 13 birds, or 60.7%, returned. Without these 13 birds and the seven returns they developed, my return percentage on the remaining 173 Catbirds would have been about 12% instead of 15%.

It is evident that in order to determine an accurate return percentage of most species, it is necessary to have a large series covering a considerable period of time.

The returns of the seven particular birds were interesting, and are as follows:

One returned three years after banding.

Two returned one and two years after banding.

Four returned one, two and three years after banding.

Since all seven returns were adult birds when banded in May, 1941, five of them are now at least four years old.

Another Catbird returned not included in the seven returns mentioned above, is an adult female banded in May, 1940, and returned each year in May, 1941, 1942, 1943 and 1944. This Catbird is now at least five years old.—HORACE GROSKIN, 210 Glenn Road, Ardmore, Pennsylvania.

Unusual Nesting of House Wrens.—For many years Baltimore Orioles, one or more pairs, have built their nests in the lower branches of a large elm tree near my home at Lily Pond, Cohasset, Mass. During the nesting season I always put short pieces of colored yarn on the lawn which the orioles use by weaving into the nest with other materials.

Last year the nest was built in the elm and hung on a level with the second story windows. The birds reared a brood and vacated, whereupon a pair of House Wrens took over and reconstructed the nest for their own use by carrying in the usual sticks which filled it almost completely. A brood of young wrens was

raised and the parents, one or both, were observed many times carrying food to the young.

In October I secured the nest for close examination and still have it. This is the first time in the years the House Wrens have lived on my place that they have used the nest of any other bird or, in fact, built in any but one of my nesting boxes.—LAURENCE B. FLETCHER, Cohasset, Massachusetts.

Eastern Goldfinch Makes an 800-Mile Trip.—A male Goldfinch banded at Ardmore, Pa., by Horace Groskin on April 6, 1942, was found dead July, 1943, near St. Andrews, New Brunswick.—HORACE GROSKIN, 210 Glenn Road, Ardmore, Pennsylvania.

RECENT LITERATURE

Reviews by Donald S. Farner

BANDING

1. Migration of the Redhead from the Utah Breeding Grounds. Cecil Williams. 1944. *The Auk*, 61(2): 251-259. Of 2,332 young Redheads *(Nyroca americana* (Eyton)), banded in northern Utah in 1929, 1930 and 1931 there were 357 returns, all shot by sportsmen. The northward dispersion in fall is well illustrated by September and October returns from Montana, Wyoming, North Dakota, South Dakota and Idaho. Although migration may begin early, many young remain in the breeding grounds until October. The returns show the principal wintering grounds for the Utah birds to be the Salton Sea region of southern California and the lower coast of Texas from Corpus Christi to Mexico. Eighty-seven percent of the birds taken were less than one year old; 10.6 percent were second-year birds, and two percent were third year or older. This ratio prompts the author to assume logically that the first year is the critical one in the life of the bird insofar as shooting is concerned. His statement that there is a 13.3 per cent annual kill among first year birds is of course based on the assumption that all hunters turn in the bands from the banded birds in their bags. The importance of this rate is somewhat obscure unless the death rate due to other causes is known. In order to determine the degree of apparent selective shooting (larger percentage of young birds) a trapping program to determine the true average age-group composition of the Redhead population would be very valuable.

2. Report of the Bird-Ringing Committee. A. Landsborough Thomson. 1944. *British Birds*, 37(12): 227-231. This is a report on the management, finance, and banding activities for 1943. During this year 4,580 birds (660 trapped and 3,920 nestlings) were banded. This is similar to 1942 when 4,567 (1,301 trapped and 3,266 nestlings) were banded but because of the war far below 1939 when 55,817 were banded. Among the interesting recoveries are a Widgeon *(Mareca penelope* (L.)), banded as a young bird in Ross-shire and reported from near the Dardanelles.

MIGRATION

3. The Sensory Basis of Bird Navigation. Donald R. Griffin. 1944. *Quarterly Review of Biology*, 19(1): 15-31.

This review paper attempts to summarize the present state of knowledge on the long distance orientation of migratory birds and of homing birds. It may be divided into three sections, (1) the statement of the problem, (2) the presentation of the available data, and (3) interpretations and conclusions.