

with five returns, and 30 nestling catbirds giving no returns. During five years I banded 136 adult and 87 nestling Bank Swallows, *Riparia riparia riparia* (Linnaeus), at the only sand-bank within many miles. Not one of these birds were among the 49 adults caught at the sand-bank two years later, and during the four previous years only one of the 223 Bank Swallows was caught as a return. Purple Martins, *Progne subis subis* (Linnaeus), totalling 27 adults and 99 nestlings, were banded at a large colony house during three years, with no returns during those years; in later years frequent inspections revealed only one bird with a band. These records from a small banding station, although not many, tend to support the contention that returns of birds to their natal environment are actually few in proportion to those banded as nestlings, at least for the species herein considered.

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GENERAL NOTES

Recovery of Chickadee Bands from Screech Owl Pellet.—Since October 27, 1946 a Screech Owl, *Otus asio naevius* (Gmelin), has been roosting in a large bird box in our back-yard, and I have been picking up pellets beneath the box for examination. All of them seemed to contain the remains of mice, until on March 4, 1947, a small pellet was picked up which contained two bands. Upon checking my records I found that I had placed these bands on Chickadees, *Parus atricapillus atricapillus* Linnaeus, one 42-57193 on August 4, 1945, and the other 40-22749 on September 18, 1946. Just prior to this, there was a fairly heavy fall of snow which undoubtedly made the owl unable to secure mice, so he resorted to the Chickadees.—MRS. CHARLES L. SMITH, 75 Westland Road, Weston 93, Mass.

A New Species is Added to North American Bird Banding.—On January 18, 1947, I had the good fortune to add a new species to bird banding history. The bird that had its name entered for the first time in banding records was first observed on January 12th within the Toronto area. On January the 14th a second of the same species put in its appearance within two hundred yards of the first one's territory. On this date both birds were observed in flight at one time. The birds were none other than one of our apparently decreasing species: the Great Grey Owl, *Scotiaptex nebulosa* (Forster).

The successful day was clear, cold, and the newly fallen snow made our footing silent. We arrived at our destination armed with a caged rat in a sack, a number of padded and weakened muskrat traps, our usual pocket full of various gage nooses, and general banding equipment. After an hour's search our quarry was sighted, perched ten feet from the ground in a large willow. In order to put our first tactic into effect, my two assistants held the owl's attention while I set the muskrat traps on short posts plainly in view of the bird. The caged rat was then placed within the trap circle and I retreated, taking with me the sack. Immediately his interest centered on the rat, and the thought of a very hearty meal. However, after watching him turn on the perch a dozen times and seeing him almost strike over and over again, our patience became exhausted. This called for tactic number two. A long willow sapling was secured and a sturdy copper noose affixed to the small end. The first try to slip the noose over the owl's head failed and he glided away. After an hour of try after try, however, the feat was successful and the bird was toppled from his perch, and in a split second was firmly held