

has been on the wet side much of the last few years. A dry spell in May or October will double the number caught. Then also there is the scarcity of birds during many migrations. This has been in evidence much of the last five years; the fall of 1949 and the spring of 1950 were excellent with birds abundant but in the fall of 1950 birds were very scarce. Possibly unusual weather conditions slow up migration making birds seem more abundant at a given area and then when they take off again they may take longer hops and do not stop off at as many places as generally expected. This could explain some having greater numbers than usual while other areas find them scarce or many species almost entirely missing.

Now as to injured birds captured, we often catch birds with only one leg, others that have had broken legs and have healed crooked. We also catch an occasional bird with a wing injury; if the injury affects only the joint at the bend of the wing we have had them recover full flight in less than two weeks. None where the entire wing was broken recovered flight. A number have been taken with tail missing, these grow in full in a month.

131 N. Whitehall Road, Norristown, Pa.

GENERAL NOTES

High Return W. Percentage of Tree Sparrow.—On January 21, 1950, forty-three Tree Sparrows, *Spizella arborea arborea* (Wilson), were banded at Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary, Northampton, Hampshire Co., Massachusetts. In the period Dec. 23, 1950, to March 22, 1951, the year following banding, nine returns W. were taken from the 43 birds banded on January 21, 1950. This is 21%, which seems to be an unusually high return figure.—Edwin A. Mason, Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary, Northampton, Mass.

Banding Nestling Mourning Doves.—While associated with the State Natural History Survey investigation of the Mourning Dove in Illinois, a problem encountered was the number of nestling doves found that were too young to be banded and have the band remain on their leg. These birds were being left unbanded in nests in remote territories. In a number of such cases the investigators were travelling the state covering areas that did not warrant a revisit. In other cases they would not revisit the nesting territory containing these young (one to eight days old) frequently enough to band them when their legs were large enough to hold the bands on. In addition, some areas that were revisited at regular intervals occasionally harbored a few young that were classed as "doubtful."

A method which was thought of to overcome this situation involved using two, four, six, eight or ten day gut; piercing the fleshy part of the leg with a needle and drawing the gut through, then tying it onto the band, anticipating that the gut would dissolve in the prescribed time and that the band would remain on the leg. After discussing this method with a local physician, the opinion was that an infection might result in the leg at the points of broken skin. The idea was then discarded. The doctor suggested and furnished two rolls of elastic adhesive tape one-half and one inch wide, which were used experimentally as follows: After applying a band, a piece of tape was cut long enough to result in a long overlap when wrapped around the band. Only about one-half of the width was fastened onto the band, the other half was made secure to the upper part of the leg, mainly on the down or light hairs, which then prevented the band from sliding up above the heel or down and off of the tarsus. Another method was to place about half of the tape on the band and turn the remainder slightly in on the under side where it would adhere to the tarsus and prevent the band from slipping off. The first method of applying the tape appeared to be more satisfactory.

A number of both wild and captive young were banded using the elastic tape method and to date we are not aware of a lost band. The birds used in the experiment ranged from three to nine days of age. The nestling birds were checked in the wild every two days until they left the nest. Captive birds were checked several weeks longer (about 25 days) for verification of the retaining properties of the adhesive. The adhesive works loose from the leg in about nine to 12 days without any ill effects upon the bird. The tape clings to the band for about 25 days.

There are several brands of elastic tape on the market, the most satisfactory tried was Dalzoflex.

On June 9, 1951, a nestling mourning dove 4-5 days old was banded in Barrington, Illinois, using the above method. This bird was shot in early October, 1951, near Pompano, Florida. A returned questionnaire, sent to the reporter of the recovery, stated that no trace of the tape, or any ill effects from its application, were observed on the leg banded.

Experiments will be carried on as to the possibilities of using this method on newly hatched waterfowl and will be reported on at a later date.—Charles W. Kossack, 715 S. Division Street, Barrington, Illinois.

Three-brooded American Robins.—Various writers state that the Robin (*Turdus migratorius* Linnaeus) sometimes raises three broods in a season, but I know of only two pieces of evidence derived from banding. Howell (1942. *Am. Midl. Nat.*, 28: 590) at Ithaca, N. Y., found two certain instances—and two other possible ones—in an area where there had been 27 first broods, and Nice (1941. *Bird-Banding*, 12: 33-34) reported an isolated case at Columbus, Ohio. To those instances I can add one.

A color-banded pair of Robins that I watched in Baltimore in 1951 raised three broods. An unknown number of young left an inaccessible first nest May 28, a single bird left the second nest a bit prematurely when banded June 29 (there were no unhatched eggs in the somewhat tilted nest), and a single bird left an inaccessible third nest August 1. The adults were both returns, the male first seen April 6 and the female April 7; the first nest was built April 22-27.

In 1950, differently paired, this female—banded April 23—had been two-brooded with clutches of four and four laid May 8-11 and June 23-26; she completed her first nest May 3. The male—banded April 15—had been lost track of in 1950 after his first nesting. April of 1950 had an average temperature of 51.9° F., 1.7° below normal, and rainfall of 1.37 inches, 1.97 inches below normal; April of 1951 had an average temperature of 55.5° F., 1.9° above normal, and rainfall of 3.63 inches, .29 inch above normal.

In the years 1942-1951 I have followed through their entire breeding season eleven pairs of Robins of which one or both members were color-banded. The 1951 pair was the only one to raise three broods, and only one other pair attempted a third brood after raising two families. The latter pair had, in 1948, clutches of 4 (laid May 5-8), an unknown number, and 3 (laid before July 5), and deserted the last clutch on July 10 when it was molested. A pair in 1945 hatched clutches of three, four and three laid April 19-21, before June 1, and June 23-25, but both the second and third broods of young were destroyed when only a few days old.

Seven pairs of birds had simple two-brood seasons. Another pair re-nested only once after its initial nest was destroyed late in incubation.—Hervey Brackbill, 4608 Springdale Avenue, Baltimore 7, Maryland.

An Additional Age Record of a Pileated Woodpecker.—The July 1951 issue of *Bird-Banding* contained a note written by my husband (p. 125), giving age records of two Pileated Woodpeckers. Too late for inclusion in that note, I received information which resulted in a third and comparable age record for this species. Mr. James Emerson of Sherwood, N. Y., near Aurora, found a male Pileated lying dead in the road in front of the Sherwood Central School on June 20, 1951. The bird was too badly decomposed to determine the cause of death, but presumably had been struck by a car. Mrs. Emerson fortunately sent the band, with an explanatory note, to Prof. E. L. Palmer of Cornell University, and it came into my hands. The Pileated was one that my husband and I had banded and photographed in Sapsucker Woods, near the Cornell campus, on June 4,