

determined from the Patuxent files, (1) the greatest known distance between point of recovery and point of banding for the species—about 1525 miles; (2) the farthest west recovery for any grosbeak banded in the northeast—compared to recoveries in Wisconsin and Ontario; and (3) the second or third farthest north recovery of the species in Manitoba.

This female Evening Grosbeak, 50-100794, was banded on March 22, 1950. It was found dead, partly devoured by a cat, at The Pas, Churchill District, Manitoba, on April 14, 1952, by Mr. Sam Waller, a teacher at the Indian School there. The band was submitted and verified at the time the recovery was reported by Mr. W. Winston Mair. This area is about three hundred miles north-northwest of the area around Winnipeg where most previous Manitoba grosbeak recoveries had been reported (including a number from the big Magee station at Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. The only Manitoba recovery definitely known to be north of The Pas was banded by Mr. Magee: 38-222121, banded April 2, 1938 and found February 27, 1939 at Moose Lake, some 50 miles northeast of The Pas.

When a detailed study of the Evening Grosbeak is made, it may prove to be significant that a number of the most distant recoveries are of birds banded in the northeast in 1949-50, and found in the provinces of Ontario and Manitoba, or in Wisconsin, thereafter. Since the 1949-50 flight in the northeast was very large, and the 1950-51 flight quite small, it may be that a sizeable proportion of the flocks which wintered here in the earlier season migrated far to the westward that summer. On the other hand, it is conceivable that the magnitude of the 1949-50 flight was due to sizeable numbers of birds from the western part of the breeding range, which merely returned westward. Despite the extensive banding of the species, its movements are still not an open book.—E. Alexander Bergstrom, 37 Old Brook Road, West Hartford 7, Conn.

A winter recovery of a banded Killdeer.—On May 9, 1950, at the University Botanical Gardens in Ann Arbor, Michigan, I color-banded three Killdeers (*Charadrius vociferus*). These birds had hatched between 9:20 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. that day. I had checked this nest twice daily since finding it on May 5. The first time that I heard the young "peeping" inside the shell was at 6:35 p.m. on May 7; a fourth egg did not hatch.

On January 11, 1951, Mrs. Elsie Vinson of Brewster, Florida, found one of the banded birds (Red above 48-204992) with a broken wing eight miles southwest of Brewster, Polk County, Florida. Mrs. Vinson wrote to me that she had placed "a makeshift splint" on the bird's wing, but that the bird later escaped from the box in which it was placed. She further stated that "several weeks later" one of her children saw the banded bird with a small group of Killdeer, and that it was able to fly. The banded bird was not seen after that.—Andrew J. Berger, Department of Anatomy, University of Michigan Medical School, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Electrocution of a Baltimore Oriole.—Birds commonly perch on bare electric wires without harm because they are not grounded and they have very little capacitance. On rare occasions, however, accidents occur which destroy birds by electrocution. A specific case was called to attention when a student, Walter Keller, found a dead male Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*) on May 12, 1948, on the street adjacent to our campus. The feet and lower portion of the tarsi had been completely burned off and the bill and forehead bore a deeply grooved burn. The specimen had a strong odor of burned horn. Apparently it had perched on one wire and touched another one, or possibly a wet branch of a tree, with its bill thus short-circuiting the electric current which destroyed the bird.—Ralph W. Dexter, Department of Biology, Kent State University, Kent, Ohio.

Longevity Record for Chimney Swift (*Chaetura pelagica*).—On September 21, 1952, I trapped the chimney swifts roosting in a sixty-three foot, free standing chimney of the Junior High School, 307 Third Avenue, Rome, Floyd County, Georgia. 6,985 birds were recovered from this chimney of which 21 were found to be already carrying bands. One of the 21 foreign re-traps, Band No. 38-87838, was originally banded at Queen's University, Kingston, Kingston City,

Ontario, Canada, on May 19, 1940, by R. W. Smith. As the bird was banded in May it must have been of at least 1939 hatch. This would set the bird's age at 13 years. The Banding Office, at Laurel, Maryland, advises that the above constitutes the oldest chimney swift in their records. The band, on this swift, was found to be badly worn in one spot and was removed and replaced by Band No. 52-72499. The remaining 6,964 chimney swifts were banded and released. I believe that this is the largest number of chimney swifts to be banded from a single chimney in a single day.—Gordon L. Hight, Jr., 16 Notasulga Drive, Rome, Georgia.

An Unusual Accident to a Bronzed Grackle.—On May 20, 1948, we caught in a drop-trap a Bronzed Grackle (*Quiscalus quiscula aeneus*) which had suffered a rather strange accident. The hallux of the right foot was elevated so that it lay parallel to the tarsus, and the nail was firmly hooked around the tarsus so that it almost encircled it. When we released the toe, we found the tarsus scarred from rubbing, and the nail of the hallux was approximately 4 mm. longer than that of the left foot. The nails of the other three toes on this foot were found to be about 2 mm. longer than the corresponding nails of the other foot, and it was evident that the bird was unable to use the right foot in a normal fashion. Had we not trapped the bird at this time and released the toe, undoubtedly the nail eventually would have encircled the tarsus completely.

The bird, a female, was banded on the left leg with number 46-306903 and released.—Sally F. Hoyt (from the notes of Southgate Y. Hoyt), "Aviana," Etna, New York.

Screech Owl and banded birds.—Referring to the note by Andrew J. Berger in *Bird-Banding* (January, 1953, 24: 19), recorded recovery of bands in owl pellets may throw interesting light on different owls as predators, and enemies of various birds. Where the House or English Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) is abundant, the Screech Owl (*Otus asio*) likely takes a good many. House Sparrows are not generally banded, but at one time I was interested in problems relating thereto, and banded a considerable number at Garden City, Long Island, New York.

A male House Sparrow (No. 51464) was banded on January 26, 1930, its band recovered on May 28, 1931, from a disintegrated owl pellet under an evergreen tree a scant half mile from the banding station. Though proof is lacking, the evidence left no reasonable doubt that this was a Screech Owl pellet.—J. T. Nichols, The American Museum of Natural History, Central Park West at 79th St., New York 24, N. Y.

Band Recovered in Pigeon Hawk's Gizzard.—On May 7, 1952, I dissected an adult female Pigeon Hawk (*Falco columbarius*). The bird had been shot by a neighbor at Chadwick's Pond, Bradford, Essex County, Massachusetts. In the gizzard of the falcon, attached to a bird's leg, I found a Fish & Wildlife band No. 50-119757. I had previously placed this band on a female Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) on April 18, 1952, at my banding station at Brooks School, about three miles from where the Pigeon Hawk was killed.—Oscar M. Root, Brooks School, North Andover, Massachusetts.

RECENT LITERATURE

BANDING

(See also Number 65)

1. **Bird Banding in Greenland in 1949 under the guidance of Finn Salomonsen, Ph.D.** (Ringmaerkning af fugle i Grønland 1949 under ledelse af dr. phil. Finn Salomonsen.) 1950. Beretninger vedrørende Grønlands Styrelse, I: 81-85. From 1946 through 1949 operators in Greenland banded 11,919 birds of 39 species, from which 931 returns and recoveries had been reported at the time of writing. The totals banded and the numbers reported both in Greenland and elsewhere are listed for each species.—O. L. Austin, Jr.