

GENERAL NOTES

BRONZED GRACKLES.—My son Dr. Frederick E. Ludwig began banding birds in the spring of 1927. Shortly thereafter I secured a permit and later the younger son Dr. Claud A. Ludwig joined us in the banding work. We have banded more than 98,000 birds.

During the twenty-five year period from 1927 to 1951 inclusive we banded 2603 Bronzed Grackles *Quiscalus quiscula aenens* Ridgway. 1515 of this number were banded as nestlings and 1088 were trapped. Many of the birds were young that had gone into the traps for the grain and in turn were followed by the old birds who were probably trying to get them out. June and July were the months we found the most successful for the trapping of grackles. Scratch feed was the best for the baiting of traps as it was for most other ground-feeding birds.

In the beginning we tried to find out the circumstance which led to the recovery of a bird. A man who reported a grackle recovered in Kentucky said he got 30 birds with one shot; he then asked if we raised them in Michigan for food.

This study will cover our banding work in the following order: 1, station returns; 2, birds recovered within six miles of the banding area; 3, birds recovered in Michigan beyond the six-mile limit; 4 birds recovered outside of Michigan.

1. Eleven grackles were recaptured the calendar year after banding; one was recaptured the first and second years; seven the second year; two the second and third years; one the second and fourth years; six the third year; two the third and fourth years; two the fourth year; and one the fifth year after banding. This makes a total of 34 grackles recaptured at our home banding station.

2. Grackles recovered within six miles of the banding area: 38 were reported the same year banded. 26 were reported the first calendar year after banding; 11 the second year; five the third year; four the fourth year; and one was reported the fifth year. 85 birds were reported recovered within six miles of the banding area. It is always interesting to note the cause of death as reported by people sending in the information. A few are as follows: Flew into window and was killed. Killed by auto. Caught by cat. Killed by train. Killed while destroying robin's eggs. Shot in cherry tree. One was found with its leg caught in a kite string; it was released unharmed. Another was building a nest in the top of a factory building; actually hung and killed itself with a piece of string.

3. Grackles recovered in Michigan beyond the six-mile limit: two were reported the same year banded. Six were recovered the first calendar year after banding; seven the second year; two the third year; two the fourth year; and one was recovered the sixth year. 20 grackles were recovered in Michigan more than six miles from where banded and all of them within 25 miles except two. One was reported from Coldwater, Branch County, 65 road miles from where banded. One was recovered at Mendon, St. Joseph County, 77 road miles from the banding area.

4. Grackles recovered outside of Michigan: 32 birds were reported from nine states as follows: three from Alabama, one from Arkansas, two from Illinois, two from Indiana, four from Kentucky, one from Louisiana, seven from Mississippi, one from Ohio, and 11 from Tennessee. Eleven of the birds were not over six months old; 10 were six months to one year old; eight were one year to two years old; two were two years to three years old; and one was between three and four years old. It is interesting to note that all but 10 of these recoveries are from Kentucky, Tennessee and Mississippi. Fourteen of the 32 recoveries were banded as nestlings and 18 were caught in traps. The 32 birds were recovered in the following months: six in November, five in December, seven in January, seven in February, four in March, two in April and one in May.

Cause of death was reported as follows: three captured, 11 killed, six found dead, one found crippled, died, one found, two recovered, three shot, one caught, one taken, one caught in steel trap. One no information.

Grackle wearing band No. 39-319307 was found dead on the Northwestern University campus. It showed no sign of external or internal injury. (Now preserved as a museum skin in the Northwestern University Museum of Zoogeography.)

SUMMARY

We had 171 return and recovery records from the 2603 grackles banded. It would appear that birds nesting in the central Michigan area do not spread out to other areas of the state to any great extent. Most of the grackles from central Michigan going south apparently travel in a westerly direction toward Mississippi. Many papers have been written about the average length of bird life. From this study it would appear that average length of life of the Bronzed Grackle is much less than two years. Bronzed Grackles are shot in Michigan as being undesirable and in the southern states many people shoot them for food.—C. C. Ludwig, 79 Durand St., East Lansing, Mich.

RECENT LITERATURE
BANDING
(See also Numbers 6, 29, 65)

1. Report of the Sempach Bird Station 1949 and 1950. (Bericht der Vogelwarte Sempach 1949 und 1950.) A. Schifferli. 1951. Der Ornithologische Beobachter 48(6): 181-207.

The portion of this report dealing with banding activities states that wing marking of freshly hatched birds with tarsi too small for banding was used for the first time in Switzerland in 1949 and 1950. The technique is not described but is reported as having been used in Sweden during previous years. Swiss experience suggests that it is a useful method.

The total number of birds banded by Swiss cooperators during 1949 and 1950 are tabulated by species. Separate figures are given for birds banded in the nest and for those taken by trapping. The totals for the two years are as follows:

	<u>Trapped</u>	<u>Banded in Nest</u>	<u>Total</u>
1949	5,590	6,954	12,544
1950	5,550	6,811	12,361

Included in the totals are some birds banded outside of Switzerland, presumably with Swiss bands. The list comprises 172 species. One thousand three hundred and sixteen "recoveries" (Ringfunde—not defined) are listed for the two years, but it is not clear whether these refer to all recoveries reported during the period or to those from the birds banded during the period. Since the tabulation of nestlings banded indicates that a major portion of these were of the smaller species as opposed to terns, gulls, etc., it is obvious that Swiss practice differs from that in the United States in this respect.

All the distant recoveries are listed, including those from foreign countries recovered in Switzerland. Only the most interesting of the "near recoveries" (not defined but perhaps equivalent to our returns) are included, although the total records for each species are given. Several Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) recoveries from Africa at distances of 1200-2000 km. from the point of banding are of particular interest. An adult ♀ Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) banded June 19, 1949 at Granges-Md. was found on October 23, 1950 at Usere, Warri-Provinz, Nigeria, 5500 km. distant from the place of banding. The tabulation comprises records for 102 species. Age and sex records are given in most cases. This is a valuable compilation.—R. O. Bender.

2. Wild Geese. Wild Ducks. Waterfowl Collection. The American Boom Trap. Peter Scott. 1953. In Fifth Annual Report of the Severn Wildfowl Trust, 1951-1952. pp. 9-77. Country Life, Ltd. London. 10 shillings. A summary of the wintering goose populations at Slimbridge, with description of marking of geese, of use of rocket-nets, of recaptures and recoveries. Ringing and recoveries of ducks are summarized and experiences with two "decoys" described. In a chapter on "The breeding of the Ne-Ne or Hawaiian Goose" (pp. 64-67), a table shows that 31 *Branta sandvicensis* were alive in captivity in June 1952 and that 13 wild birds had been seen in 1951; with an estimated additional 17 wild birds, the estimated total population is 62. There are one gander and two geese at Severn; 19 eggs were laid in 1952, nine young hatched and all were raised. Photographs are given of the goslings with their Silkie-cross Bantam foster parents and