

and day-trees in Tuscarawas County. They also prey to a considerable extent on the young skunks in the latter part of June and July.

Ninety-eight percent of the nests we have found in this county have been in hollow trees, and ninety-eight percent of nests in Delaware County have been in old Crow and hawk nests.

DELAWARE, OHIO.

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### BIRD BANDING AT THE IOWA LAKESIDE LABORATORY DURING THE SUMMERS OF 1923 AND 1924

BY DAYTON STONER

The present paper is here presented with two principal objects in view: first, to announce the establishment of a summer bird banding and trapping station at The Iowa Lakeside Laboratory on West Lake Okoboji in northwestern Iowa, and, second, to indicate in brief tabular form a summary of the bird banding activities which my wife and I have carried on at this place between June 19 and July 15, 1923, and June 16 and July 15, 1924.

Since the region offers an abundance of food and other fairly equable breeding conditions for both water and land birds a goodly number of summer residents provides material for the bander. Therefore, it was felt that the natural advantages would warrant the expenditure of some time and effort in bird banding and other kindred work not only on the five-acre plot comprising the grounds of the Iowa Lakeside Laboratory but at other suitable places in the contiguous territory.

For the most part only adult and well fledged young have been banded. However, from the results obtained or rather the lack of results obtained, I feel fairly well convinced that the banding of nestling birds is not a highly profitable part of the work. The mortality among them is high and the likelihood of their destruction by an agency outside the ordinary scope of human affairs reduces the chances for recovery to a minimum. This is particularly true of the smaller land birds. A large number of records which can not but which undoubtedly should be "closed" will, in time, greatly hamper the future work. Elimination of this feature is highly desirable. Adult birds are much more likely to survive and to furnish the information that is sought.

The appended table gives in summarized form the results of our banding activities during the approximately eight weeks under con-

sideration. A total of 651 birds representing twenty-five species has been banded. More than sixty per cent of the total number was banded in 1924. Nineteen species were represented each year; thirteen of these were represented in both seasons. In 1923 but twenty adult birds were banded; the remaining 222 were immature. In 1924 ninety-three of the 409 individuals banded were adult birds, the proportion of adults banded increasing from a little more than eight per cent of the total to almost twenty-three per cent of the total. Of the 651 birds

TABLE SHOWING BIRDS BANNED

	1923	1924
Red-breasted Merganser— <i>Mergus serrator</i> .....	1 ad.	.....
Mourning Dove— <i>Zenaidura macroura carolinensis</i> .....	10 juvs.	4 juvs.
Belted Kingfisher— <i>Ceryle alcyon</i> .....	1 im.	8 juvs.
Downy Woodpecker— <i>Dryobates pubescens medianus</i> .....	.....	6 juvs.
Red-headed Woodpecker— <i>Melanerpes erythrocephalus</i> .....	4 juvs.	.....
Northern Flicker— <i>Colaptes auratus luteus</i> .....	11 juvs.	.....
Arkansas Kingbird— <i>Tyrannus verticalis</i> .....	3 juvs.	3 juvs.
Kingbird— <i>Tyrannus tyrannus</i> .....	17 juvs.	29 juvs.
Phoebe— <i>Sayornis phoebe</i> .....	4 juvs.	.....
Blue Jay— <i>Cyanocitta c. cristata</i> .....	1 im.	2 juvs. 2 ads.
Red-winged Blackbird— <i>Agelaius p. phoeniceus</i> .....	6 juvs.	7 juvs.
Cowbird— <i>Molothrus a. ater</i> .....	.....	1 juv.
Rusty Blackbird— <i>Euphagus carolinus</i> .....	1 im.	.....
Bronzed Grackle— <i>Quiscalus q. aeneus</i> .....	1 juv.	.....
Rose-breasted Grosbeak— <i>Zamelodia ludoviciana</i> .....	.....	3 juvs.
Bank Swallow— <i>Riparia riparia</i> .....	57 juvs. 19 ads.	116 juvs. 91 ads.
Tree Swallow— <i>Iridoprocne bicolor</i> .....	.....	3 juvs. 1 ad.
Barn Swallow— <i>Hirundo erythrogaster</i> .....	.....	1 juv.
Yellow Warbler— <i>Dendroica a. aestiva</i> .....	17 juvs.	15 juvs.
Maryland Yellow-throat— <i>Geothlypis t. trichas</i> .....	.....	1 juv.
Brown Thrasher— <i>Toxostoma rufum</i> .....	18 juvs.	42 juvs.
Catbird— <i>Dumetella carolinensis</i> .....	22 juvs.	44 juvs.
House Wren— <i>Troglodytes a. aedon</i> .....	43 juvs.	16 juvs. 1 ad.
Robin— <i>Planesticus m. migratorius</i> .....	10 juvs.	5 juvs.
Bluebird— <i>Sialia s. sialis</i> .....	5 juvs.	2 juvs.
Total.....	242	409

banded, 283 or something over forty per cent were bank swallows while of these, 110 or more than thirty-eight per cent, were adult birds.

It was somewhat of a surprise to find, here in the midst of fairly natural surroundings and an abundant food supply, that certain species could be secured by using the government sparrow trap. And I have no doubt that if other kinds of traps were operated similar success would attend them.

Rather than indulge in promiscuous branding and trapping I believe that it is a good plan to have in mind some definite objective or objectives in connection with that work and I have endeavored to put this scheme into practice in my own efforts. Special attempt has been made to band and otherwise investigate the bank swallow (*Riparia riparia* (Linn.)). Studies are now under way on burrow excavation, breeding habits, home life, and other features of this well-known but little-studied species. Although some progress has been made and some data have been accumulated, work must be carried on here for several seasons in order to warrant an appreciable number of conclusions and worth-while generalizations.

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The Country Home of Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Lindsey, at "Ridgetop," where the guests at Nashville were entertained during the field trip on Sunday.