

**Some Notes on the Nesting Material of the Cedar Waxwing.**—The material composing the nests of the Cedar Waxwing (*Bombycilla cedrorum*) in this locality consists chiefly of wool and moss. Their nests also contain a considerable amount of small twigs, and if they are near to hemlocks, they are largely of the twigs of that tree. One hemlock tree in particular that I saw Cedar Waxwings getting twigs from one summer, stands nearly on top of a hill, and was nearly killed by fire. Many of the lower branches had died, and thus there was a large amount of twigs. Cedar Waxwings were observed coming to this tree for twigs and returning to the nests, just as birds come and go from a drinking fountain.

Before there were sheep on the grounds where these observations were made, the Cedar Waxwings used the moss that hangs in rather long strings, and is found especially on tamarack, balsam, fir, and other conifers, but also on maple and birch. After sheep were present the moss was found to be used very little in the construction of the nests. Much wool was available from the barbed wire fences and some from low bushes. On the lane fences the three lower wires held wool that sheep had lost when reaching through the fences, and it was no uncommon sight to see Cedar Waxwings along the fences gathering this material during the nesting season. The past two years the grounds have not been pastured to sheep, and thus there has been no wool, and I find that the waxwings are again using the moss in their nests. Thus it appears that wool is the substance that will be used if the birds can secure it. The nests are at times lined with short stems, such as those that bear the seeds of the maple.—O. M. BRYENS, *McMillan, Luce Co., Mich.*

**Local Variation in the Song of the Maryland Yellow-throat.**—I would like to know if other observers have noticed a difference in the songs of the same species of bird on the two sides of the Alleghenies. My first studies were carried on at Eubank, Kentucky, at the western foot of the mountains. Since 1903 I have been in south side Virginia, in the lower Piedmont country, almost exactly east of Eubank, Kentucky, but on the east side of the mountains.

I at once noticed a marked difference in the songs of several species of birds. One of these was the Maryland Yellow-throat (*Geothlypis trichas trichas*). Although, as nearly as I can make out, the Virginia bird is sub-specifically the same as the one found in eastern Kentucky,\* there is a constant difference in the distinctness with which the song is articulated. The song of the Kentucky bird was a clear-cut, distinctly articulated repetition of the syllables "*witchity-witchity-witchity-witch*", while that of the Virginia bird is a warbling imitation of those syllables, with little attempt at articulation. The same is true to a less extent of the Kentucky Warbler, Hooded Warbler and Louisiana Thrush.—JOHN B. LEWIS, *Lawrenceville, Va.*

**The Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in Florida.**—On December 14, 1924, I secured at Fulford, Dade County, Florida, a female Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Mus-*

\*This is true according to the A. O. U. Check-List; but according to Mr. Ridgway (Birds of North and Middle America, Part ii, pp. 661-666), Dr. Oberholser (*Auk*, XXXIV, p. 324) and other authorities in systematic ornithology, while the Virginia bird is *G. trichas trichas* the Kentucky bird is probably a distinct subspecies, *G. trichas brachidactyla*.—Ed.

*civora forficata*). It was in rather worn plumage, with new feathers partly out, and was working southward, alone. Records of this bird for Florida are so few, that I am publishing this one, as I did a previous record, though both these records, as well as unpublished records of other species, will appear in my forthcoming book, the "Birds of Florida."—HAROLD H. BAILEY, *Miami Beach, Fla.*

## BIRD BANDING NEWS

Conducted by Wm. I. Lyon

### ADVENTURES IN BIRD BANDING

By Kathleen M. Hempel

Having been interested in birds since childhood, and having for a number of years kept migration schedules and other notes, I had come to the conclusion that I knew a great deal about the subject. Then I took up banding and it did not take me very long to discover just how little I did know. The subject is vast, has wonderful possibilities, and I feel we have just begun to scratch the surface. I think very few of us realize what a remarkable discovery this was, the placing of bands on living birds. In a few years all other methods of studying birds at close range will seem obsolete and out of date, and every ornithologist will be a bander. The best part of this study is that when one begins it, it is almost impossible for him to stop, for it is wonderfully fascinating. If one be forced to discontinue the work for a short time, he comes back to it with more enthusiasm than ever, firmly resolved to either exceed or break his previous records. I have found this true of myself, at least.

I have been banding birds since the winter of 1920. I shall never forget the first bird I caught. It was a chickadee, and I have never been able to discover which was the more frightened, the little gray bird or myself. But since that time I have banded 624 birds of thirty species, which does not include the times I have handled repeats. Most of these birds were adults, and the majority of the nestlings banded were House Wrens just about to leave the nesting box. Personally I do not care about banding nestlings; they are too dull and uninteresting. I much prefer to handle the adult birds, and last spring I do not think I banded any nestlings, except for the wrens already mentioned.

Following is the list of birds which I have banded with the returns for each: Catbird 38, returns 10; Robin 65, returns 3; Bronzed Grackle 76, returns 4; Blue Jay 125, returns 18; Black-capped Chickadee 55, returns 13; Tufted Titmouse 4; White-breasted Nuthatch 35, returns 19; Red-breasted Nuthatch 4; Downy Woodpecker 31, returns 19; Hairy Woodpecker 9, returns 3; Red-headed Woodpecker 15, returns 3; Red-bellied Woodpecker 6; Flicker 8; House Wren 38, return 1; Baltimore Oriole 11; Mourning Dove 4; Purple Martin 9, return 1; Brown Thrasher 15, return 1; Rose-breasted Grosbeak 8; Chipping Sparrow 8; Maryland Yellowthroat 3; White-throated Sparrow 1; Ovenbird 1; Gray-cheeked Thrush 1. All of these were captured in my yard with the exception of the Mourning Doves, three of which were nestlings and the other an adult captured by a friend. Other birds not trapped in the yard but banded afield were Field Sparrow 4; Nighthawk 4; Bank Swallow 3; and Red-winged Blackbird 1. The last-named was a female that had been wounded in the wing. She wintered on our sleeping-porch and in the spring we released her.