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REPORT OF THE RECORDING SECRETARY OF THE NORTHEASTERN BIRD-BANDING ASSOCIATION FOR 1930

A BRIEF résumé of the Association's activities for the past nine years may be of interest. You will notice in the figures to follow that although the number of banding members decreased somewhat until 1930, owing to the fact that members living outside the territory covered by our Association gradually left it and joined the associations whose territory included their banding stations, and also because those who took up banding as a fad or amusement dropped out, still the number of birds banded and the returns as a rule have steadily increased from year to year. We feel that the eighty-three members who banded last year comprise those who are truly interested, many of them from the very beginning, finding that banding is worth while and of scientific value, and who really care about the protection and study of our native birds.

In this connection Frederick C. Lincoln, writing in the January, 1931, *Bird-Banding*, under the title "Bird-Banding: Its First Decade under the Biological Survey," is very encouraging when he says that "personal contact with a great many of the banders at their trapping stations has demonstrated that the Bureau's coöperators are almost without exception worthy champions of the highest conservation principles."

The following statistics are given, generally speaking, in round numbers:

1922	—	4,000	birds	were	banded	of	116	species	by	92	banders. ¹
1923	—	10,000	“	“	“	“	with	170	returns.		
1924	—	12,000	“	“	“	“	of	123	species,	540	returns, 95 banders
1925	—	11,000	“	“	“	“	112	“	“	524	“ 80 “
1926	—	14,000	“	“	“	“	114	“	“	570	“ 70 “
1927	—	13,000	“	“	“	“	127	“	“	714	“ 70 “
1928	—	14,000	“	“	“	“	132	“	“	948	“ 63 “
1929	—	21,000	“	“	“	“	138	“	“	574	“ 64 “
1930	—	23,607	“	“	“	“	160	“	“	1,054	“ 83 ² “

Total—122,607

A very few of the interesting happenings of 1930 follow: Dr. Harrison F. Lewis, who bands on the north shore of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, during July had 18 returns of the Razor-billed Auk, 29 of the Common Murre, 3 of the Puffin, and 1 Guillemot. Herring Gulls banded by Richard J. Eaton and W. G. Means at the Gooseberry Islands off Manchester and Beverly, Massachusetts, have been recovered at Columbia, South Carolina; Angle City, Florida; and Berwick, New Verda, and Dennis Island, Louisiana; and Herring Gulls banded by James P. Melzer at the Isles of Shoals, New Hampshire, were reported from Ketch Harbor, Nova Scotia; Bay Head, New Jersey; Hacoda and Montgomery, Alabama; Ocean Springs, Mississippi; and New Orleans, Louisiana. This makes seven recoveries of New England Herring Gulls during last fall from the three Gulf States—two from Alabama, one from Mississippi, and four from Louisiana. As Dr. John B. May says in the last “Items of Interest,” “this is particularly interesting to compare with approximately 150 recoveries of New England Night Herons, only two of which have been reported within the above three States in the nearly ten years since the first Barnstable birds were banded.”

During July, Charles B. Floyd took as returns at Chatham, Massachusetts, 9 Common Terns banded by him and four returns of birds banded by Dr. O. L. Austin at the same place. One was banded in 1925, five in 1926, four in 1927, and Austin's four in 1929. Mrs. Ethel M. Crowell received a report that a Common Tern banded by her at Wepecket Island in July, 1929, was shot June 6, 1930, at Trinidad; while three Common Terns banded by Dr. Winsor M. Tyler and Laurence B. Fletcher, July, 1929, were found dead in British and French Guiana and Brazil.

¹That year we included members from Iowa, Michigan, Wisconsin, Missouri, New Mexico, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Georgia, who banded approximately 1,000 of the 4,000 birds.

²About 13,000 were banded by six men—Messrs. Oliver L. Austin, Jr., L. B. Fletcher, C. B. Floyd, H. F. Lewis, J. P. Melzer, and Wm. P. Wharton. Austin banded 9 new species for our records.

Three recoveries of Evening Grosbeaks were made in Massachusetts in 1930, all banded by M. J. Magee at Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan; one February 8th, by Mrs. Elsie V. Perkins at Topsfield, banded May, 1929; one February 22d, by Mrs. George E. Burbank at Sandwich, banded March, 1927; and one at Cohasset (picked up dead) March 10th, banded in November, 1925.

At Summerville, South Carolina, William P. Wharton took 19 White-throated Sparrow returns in January, 9 in February, 6 in March, and 1 in April; while of Chipping Sparrows he took 1 return in January, 35 in February, 37 in March, and 1 in April. W. Rodman Peabody, of Milton, found that all the Tree Sparrows (19) taken in his traps in December were returns. George D. Eustis, of Martha's Vineyard, took from one to three Song Sparrow returns each month from January to June. Frederic H. Kennard, Newton, banded 66 Fox Sparrows in the month of March.

A Shrike, banded by Seth H. Low at Quincy, Massachusetts, and taken three miles away to the Blue Hills region before releasing, returned in a couple of days and was recaptured, and about that time he banded 144 Purple Finches, besides other birds, and of course the Shrike had a rich feeding-ground.

There are only six banded Blackburnian Warblers on our records, but of those, one, banded by Professor R. R. Marsden, at Hanover, New Hampshire, June 2, 1929, was found dead on his porch (evidently from exhaustion) a year and three days later. Professor Marsden also took a Veery last May which he had banded in June, 1928. Miss Cora M. Teot had a Wood Thrush return last May, banded the September before. The only Hermit Thrust return for 1930 was at Summerville, South Carolina, by Mr. Wharton, in February, a bird he had banded the same month in 1929.

Mrs. A. G. Mathers, New Fairfield, Connecticut, reports that she has taken as returns more than half of all the birds banded two years ago, only one of which was taken last year, and she would like to know where they were a year ago.

To quote Mr. Lincoln again, we might well say, "This retrospect [of banding in America during the last decade] is viewed with pardonable pride by those charged with the direction of the work, and, it is believed, by everyone who has actively participated."

Boston, Massachusetts, January 16, 1931

ALICE B. HARRINGTON, *Recording Secretary*