

A STATEMENT FROM THE BIOLOGICAL SURVEY

It has been most gratifying to the Biological Survey that its many friends and coöperators have shown such an effective interest in maintaining and furthering its work by bringing to the attention of the Budget Bureau and to members of Congress the importance of continuing appropriations, the loss of which was threatened in connection with early consideration of the Budget for the coming fiscal year (beginning July 1, 1934). The support in this matter, given by our bird-banding coöperators is very much appreciated.

The effect of the restoration of these items is to provide for the Bureau a sum equal to that available during the current fiscal year. This means that the bird-banding work can be continued along the same lines as in the past, and that the Survey should be able to furnish all stations with an adequate supply of bands, though the funds for the coming year will not permit expansion. Accordingly, the restriction relative to the issuance of additional permits must continue in force.

Everyone interested in this form of investigation regrets the necessity for curbing the growth of the work. It is hoped, however, that the time is not far distant when it may be possible to go ahead on a plan broad enough to permit the establishment of at least 5,000 banding stations in the United States, Canada, and Latin America.

The basic interest and the volunteer coöperation already exist, and the Survey has in operation an efficient system that will admit of almost unlimited expansion. Banding work, however, is expensive, as every station operator well knows. According to careful estimates, to expand as desirable would require between \$20,000 and \$25,000 a year, for bands, clerical services, and administration. This is just about twice the amount that is now available. As many coöperators are aware, the Banding Section is seriously under-staffed, and the present clerical force should be doubled to provide efficient service and full utilization of the valuable data that are rapidly accumulating in the files.

Time has already amply demonstrated the importance of this work and its value as a means of ornithological investigation is recognized throughout the scientific world. The Biological Survey is of the opinion, therefore, that with the system that has been evolved during the past 14 years, and with the existing interest of American bird students and sportsmen, adequate financing is the only bar to the full development of the banding method in research. The requisite funds may be supplied either by Congressional appropriation or establishment by interested persons of an endowment fund sufficient to yield the necessary annual income.

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