

Weeks	++	+	±
4	3	1	
5	4	1	
6	1	3	
7	4	5	
8	1	5	
9		2	
10			
11	1	1	
12		1	1
13			
14		1	
15		1	
16			1
19			1

Table Showing Visibility of Color, 38 Chickadees Stained With Drimark Red, By Weeks Interval between Marking and Second Observation.

Having tried several types of dye in search of one which will last at least two to three months, not run, and not apparently harm the bird, I have found that Drimark red is the best of these methods tried for temporary color-marking of birds such as chickadees in this area.—John H. Kennard, M.D., 182 Tarrytown Road, Manchester, N. H.

Abundance of English Sparrows.—The total number of English Sparrows (*Passer domesticus*) handled at a given banding station may be of interest for comparison with the numbers occurring at other stations, and at future times. Inasmuch as this is a species which is not normally banded, this offers a means of determining whether or not this species is rising or falling in numbers, or holding its own. At this location, Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary, Northampton and Easthampton, Massachusetts, coordinates 4217-7238, it may be the species has a rising population. Certainly, as a species, it does take advantage of the artificial cavity nest sites that have been made available, nullifying considerable efforts to provide artificial nesting cavities with the hope of attracting such native species as the Bluebird and Tree Swallow. It also takes advantage of the artificial feeding program, especially in the winter months when foods for various bird species are readily available at all times. The manipulation of vegetation, which has been so beneficial in attracting other species of birds, apparently has no effect on *Passer domesticus*. This introduced bird form seems definitely tied to disruptions in natural environments made by man.

Records on the numbers of *Passer domesticus* handled from July 7, 1960 to June 15, 1961, show that 52 were identified as male; 43 as female, 110 as immature. These last cover a season of July 7 to September 24. Obviously immatures can be identified prior to July 7. Also, obviously, some species can be sexed prior to the last date indicated for immatures. The total number is 205.—Edwin A. Mason, Arcadia Sanctuary, Easthampton, Mass.

Identification of Empidonax by Recorded Calls.—Identification of the *Empidonax* flycatchers is always difficult for the bander. The bird in the hand doesn't sing to give a clue as to identity. On May 10, 1959 I caught an *Empidonax*, placed it in a wire cage in the house, then proceeded to play the recordings of the songs of flycatchers. There were no other sounds around, and the bird was placed where he was unable to see any disturbing motions. As I played each song he indicated no response until I played the song of the Traill's Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii*). He immediately emitted several notes much like that of the record. When repeating the records of all the flycatchers several times the reaction of the bird was always the same, showing a response only to the song of the Traill's. Later in the day I netted another *Empidonax* and repeated the experiment, and again attained the same results. Thus, I theorized these birds were the Traill's flycatcher and sent in my report with this identification, along with a footnote explaining my method of identification. — Mrs. John Lueshen, Wisner, Nebraska. *Ed. note:* This seems to be a promising approach for identification (at least in spring), where the record includes calls of all the species

within this genus which occur in the region where banding is done. Large-scale experiments would be desirable. We understood others have experimented with this method recently, and we would welcome comments on the results.

RECENT LITERATURE

BANDING

(See also Numbers 51, 62, 75)

1. Report for 1958 of the Camargue Banding Station. (Station de Bagnage de Camargue, Compte rendu pour l'année 1958). L. Hoffmann. 1960. Fifth Report of Activities, Station Biologique de la Tour du Valat, pp. 7-108. Reports the banding in 1958 of 20,968 birds of 138 species, a station record, and bringing the 9-year total bandings to 60,585 birds, from which 3,546 recoveries have been received, a tremendously high over-all percentage indeed. The 1957-58 season was an exceptionally good one for waterfowl, and of the total 18,000 caught, 11,369 were banded and released. Large numbers of passerines were banded with mist nets. A selected list of recoveries and returns for 49 species is given with short comments on their significance. Tables show the monthly recaptures by locality of the flamingo, mallard, and Green-winged Teal. A series of 14 maps of teal recoveries at fortnightly intervals from January through May shows graphically the winter distribution and northward movement of this species.—O. L. Austin, Jr.

2. Bird ringing in the Netherlands. (Ringverslag van het Vogeltrekstation nr. 44, 1957-1959). A. C. Perdeck and J. Taapken. 1961. *Limosa*, **34** (1-2): 33-156. (English summary.) The totals for the three years reported here show banding activities in the Netherlands have taken a healthy upswing: 48,472 in 1957, 57,217 in 1958, and a tremendous jump to 95,693 in 1959. All recoveries in foreign countries are listed, but "those from within the Netherlands are highly selective." The extensive list is once again dominated by waterfowl banded in the large duck decoys along the Netherlands coast. Some 650 recoveries are given for the Mallard alone, and 1579 more were omitted for lack of space and interest. A welcome addition is the mapping of all the foreign recoveries received for several species.—O. L. Austin, Jr.

3. Recoveries of birds banded abroad, 31. (Terugvondsten van in het buitenland geringde vogels, 29). C. G. B. Ten Kate and J. Taapken. 1960. *Limosa*, **33** (3-4): 180-201. Raw data for some 700 birds of 78 species, most of them waterbirds, banded abroad and recovered in the Netherlands since the last report of 1959, and a bibliography of the 15 foreign reports from which these were culled.—O. L. Austin, Jr.

4. 10th Annual Report of the Banding Committee Ornithological Society of New Zealand, Inc. for the Year Ending 31st March 1960. F. C. Kinsky. 1960. Published by the Dominion Museum, Wellington, 42 pp. Banding activities are increasing gratifyingly in New Zealand. The 12,782 birds banded this year show a more than 50 percent increase over previous year's totals, and bring New Zealand's grand total up to 53,000. The number of species banded this year is 52, including 6 species new to the banding list, which now totals 81 species. The activities of most of the 40 active cooperators centered on waterbirds, primarily albatrosses, shearwaters, petrels, gannets, skuas, and gulls. Largest quantities were the Southern Black-backed Gull (1943), Red-billed Gull (2900), and Black-billed Gull (841). New Zealanders used nets this year for the first time, and as their use increases we may look for more significant bandings and recoveries of various passerines. A selected list in conventional form presents the more significant of the 722 recoveries received during the year, also of the 1240 "repeats" as the New Zealanders insist on terming what other banding schemes usually call "returns." Data are also given for the 8 Giant Petrels and 2 Grey Teal banded elsewhere and recovered in New Zealand. Short comments on the significance of the recoveries listed for each species would be a worthwhile addition to a report of this nature.—O. L. Austin, Jr.