

## BANDING OF COLONIAL BIRDS IN 1952

Late last summer, Mr. Harry T. Davis, of the North Carolina State Museum, Raleigh, North Carolina, offered the suggestion that EBBA NEWS summarize the banding of colonial species of birds by members of E.B.B.A. along the Atlantic coast. A number of members responded to a request for information by sending in data on their operations. While the data are probably not complete, they should be of interest to persons concerned with colonial species. If this information is of sufficient interest to readers, please drop the Editor a note. Another season, it would seem desirable to publish this material in the September or October issue. In future years it would be of value to have observations on the numbers of a species present at a given location, together with comments on change in status, etc.

In the following tables, the number of birds banded refers to fledglings unless otherwise indicated. All dates, of course, are for 1952.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Number Banded</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Bandor</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
LEACH'S PETREL (9 young banded):				
6/19 to 8/20	9	Numerous islands, Lincoln & Knox Cos., Muscongus Bay, Maine	J.M. Cadbury	"Size of colonies impossible to estimate."
BROWN PELICAN (7 young banded):				
May 19	7	Brevard Co., Florida	W.M. Davidson	"Earliest in a colony of at least 100 pairs."
DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT (511 young banded):				
May 19	17	Brevard Co., Florida	W.M. Davidson	"About 24 pairs in colony."
7/17-18	18	S. Mark Island, Hancock Co., Maine	F.P. Frazier & F.P.F., Jr.	250 young birds in colony.

## DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT, continued:

6/19 to 8/20 476 Muscongus Bay, Maine J.M. Cadbury "Over 2000 pairs"

## AMERICAN EGRET (6 young banded):

May 15 6 Longwood, Seminole W.M. Davidson "30 pairs in  
County, Florida colony"

## GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL (244 young banded):

7/17 & 18 5 S. Mark Island, F. P. Frazier "Estimate of 35  
Hancock Co., Maine & F.P.F., Jr. young"

6/19-8/20 233 Muscongus Bay, Me. J.M. Cadbury "Nearly 1000  
pairs"

July 19 6 Mark Island, A.L. Baily "3 pairs of  
Casco Bay, Me. adults"

## HERRING GULL (204 young banded):

6/19-8/20 104 Muscongus Bay, Me. J.M. Cadbury "About 600 pairs"

July 19 100 Mark Island, A.L. Baily "65 pairs  
Casco Bay, Me. estimated"

LAUGHING GULL 19 Brigantine Refuge, A.E. Conway "500 pairs; young  
July 12 N. Jersey chiefly on wing"  
(19 young banded) One recovered,  
8/14/52, Tottenville, S.I., N.Y.

GULL-BILLED TERN 1 Oregon Inlet, N.C. H.T. Davis  
(1 young banded)

## COMMON TERN (124 young and 8 adults banded, a total of 132)

July 4-5 8 Pamlico Sound Bay, N.C. H.T. Davis "Banded 8 adults  
out of 20 pairs"

Do.. 12 Oregon Beach, Inlet, N.C. Do. "20 pairs"

## COMMON TERN (continued):

July 24 13 Oregon Inlet, N.C. R. Wolff

July 17 2 Strathmere, N.J. W. Pepper

July 12 75 Beach Haven, N.J. A.E. Conway "150 pairs"

July 26 10 Do. A.E. & J.R. Conway

Do. 10 Do. P.H. Fluck

Aug. 13 2 Stone Harbor, N.J. A.E. Conway "11 p.m., on beach"

## LEAST TERN (50 young banded):

July 4-5 13 Oregon Inlet, N.C. H.T. Davis "12 pairs"

July 24 20 Do. R. Wolff

July 17 16 Strathmere, N.J. W. Pepper

July 12 1 Little Beach Island, N.J. A.E. Conway "1 pair"

## BLACK SKIMMER (452 young and 6 adults, a total of 458 banded):

July 12 100 Beach Haven, N.J. A.E. Conway "250 pairs"

July 26 65 Do. A.E. & J.R. Conway "One found

Do. 60 DO. dead Vero Beach, Fla., Jan. 5, 1953"

Aug. 13 2 Stone Harbor, N.J. A.E. Conway "11 p.m., on beach"

July 4-5 96 Oregon Inlet, N.C. H.T. Davis "75 pairs" "Trapped  
& J. Grey an adult banded on

Do. 6 Do. Do. 7/19/49 1 mi north"

July 24 68 DO. R. Wolff

July 19 27 Wreck Island, Va. J. Grey

## BLACK GUILLEMOT (6 young banded):

6/19-8/20 6 Muscongus Bay, Me. J. Cadbury "About 75 pairs"

It is not intended that the foregoing is a complete tabulation of all the colonial birds banded along the Atlantic Coast in 1952; rather it represents a tabulation of the reports sent to your Editor in reply to his request for information. At Stone Harbor, N.J., the two each of Common Terns and Black Skimmers reported banded on the beach at 11 p.m.

by the Editor were merely picked up while on a late evening walk; this colony was not systematically banded this year by the Editor, but he noted that many young birds of these species were banded, yet no report on this operation was forthcoming.

Mr. Davis's remarks on the colonies in North Carolina are quite interesting, and from these we quote several portions:

"Rookery Island, one mile west (of one-time New Inlet, Pamlico Sound Bay--Ed), where we had found hundreds of Royal Terns in 1948 and 1949, was altogether abandoned, as it was last summer (1951). Very few Royals were seen on the wing. \*\*\* A half mile to the south, we located a colony of mixed herons in some low trees, estimated at 25 pairs.

"On Grassy Island, one mile west from the south side of Oregon Inlet, we observed an estimated 250 pairs of nesting Laughing Gulls. The hatched young were small, and in the thick rushes and saw grass. We did not band them, although we had banded hundreds there in previous years. They were the most abundant birds about the refuge (Pea Island).

"To observe bird colonies in the Ocracoke region, I received a friendly lift on a boat going through the Inland Waterway Canal from Morehead, thence out to the mouth of the Neuse River and across the lower sound, date July 11 and 18. About a mile from Highway 70 bridge was an island colony with some 40 pairs of mixed herons.

"In approaching Ocracoke, we passed close to Shell Castle, North Rock, and Beacon Islands. On the last there were low bushes and about 20 pairs of herons. The other islands were well covered with weeds and small shrubs. There were altogether estimated 700 pairs of Laughing Gulls and more than that of waddling young.

"Least and Common Terns had nested on bare spots, some 100 pairs of each. Only an occasional Royal Tern was seen. No Pelicans were seen, although they had nested here in previous years.

"The famed Royal Shoals, traditional home of Royal Terns, had

been washed flat. It is well out in Pamlico Sound, north of Ocracoke, and it was not observed. Other shoals that have built higher there (Howard Lumps) or in the vicinity of Cape Hatteras may have taken care of the Royal Tern colonies.

"July 5, 1952, Isham B. Rogers, Superintendent of Schools of Onslow County, reported 'several hundred' Black Skimmer nests on a bare sand (dredge dump) area of one and one-half acres to the west of Bardens Inlet, near Cape Lookout."

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#### MORE ABOUT ORIOLES

The BULLETIN OF THE MAINE AUDUBON SOCIETY, vol. 9, no. 1, January 1953, edited by Dr. Alfred O. Gross of Bowdoin College, is now at hand and provides another banding record for an oriole this winter.

On December 4, 1952, an immature Orchard Oriole appeared at the feeding station of a Mrs. Raymond in Westbrook, Maine. It was examined by Dr. Gross, as well as banded on December 13 by Mrs. Irma Werner with band number 49-185137. On January 13, 1953, it was still present. Concerning this species in Maine, Dr. Gross (pp. 22-23) says there are "few records of the Orchard Oriole for Maine and no authentic records of their nesting". His examination of the plumage of this bird suggests that it must have been the result of a very late nesting, with the strong possibility that it occurred in the State limits.

Two Baltimore Orioles were observed but not banded within the same State this winter, a young bird at Bangor, December 20, 1952 (T.P. Coolidge) and another at Yarmouth, December 21, 1952 (Roy Spear), the latter bird being present January 7, 1953. (Ibid., p. 23)--J.R.C.

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#### CONCERNING PROPER BAND SIZES

Father Edward Stoehr, St. Conrad Friary, Annapolis, Maryland, R.F.D. 4, Box 748, says, in a letter to the Editor, "It seems that some of the recommended sizes (of bands) are too large for the bird involved. For example: # 2 is too large for Wood Thrushes, I've been using 1A.