

"Almost a busman's holiday, except that here at home I never can relax nor devote all my time to banding. Had I one more day and one more trap, I might have doubled the take! The Schaugencys delighted to have their birds dressed up in bands. May return in March - to finish the job!"

--Maurice Broun, Hawk Mountain Sanctuary,
Route 2, Kempton, Penna.

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IT PAYS TO CARRY BANDS WITH YOU!

Frank P. Frazier, Jr., 424 Highland Ave., Upper Montclair, New Jersey, has this to say about the wisdom of carrying bands at all times:

"While on a Christmas census near Manahawkin, New Jersey, I found a Saw-whet Owl sitting on the road shoulder. He was evidently dazed from flying into a wire, but he soon recovered and was able to fly perfectly. I banded and photographed him - thankful now for the bands which I always carry along on trips but never have used before. After banding it, we left the owl back in the pine woods.

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SHE MUST LIKE HER!

The following was received from Erma J. Fisk (Mrs. Bradley Fisk), 20 Berkley Place, Buffalo 9, New York, in a letter dated May 4, 1953. At this point, it should be mentioned that Mrs. Fisk is the capable editor of AUDUBON OUTLOOK, published quarterly by the Buffalo Audubon Society, Inc. EBBA members who live in the Buffalo area are especially urged to join this association which has an excellent program of field trips and meetings as well as owning the interesting Beaver Meadow Wildlife Refuge.

Applications for membership should be addressed to Miss Frances G. Rew, Treasurer, 309 Summer St., Buffalo 22, N.Y. Regular membership is \$1.50 per year; sustaining membership is \$5.00 per year.

Mrs. Fisk's letter follows:

"A female Cowbird, banded by me on April 19, at noon, at my Canadian home, seven miles from my Buffalo home, showed up in my Buffalo trap on April 29th. The band number is 52-112301.

"I did not believe my own records when I first saw them, but as I keep my Canadian and U.S. records completely separate, my next trip across the border double-checked it for me. I originally caught the bird in one of Mr. Gill's trip traps, on the ground, and recaptured it in a Glenhaven trap on a tray four feet up.

"Wish it could have been a more outstanding bird than just an old cow." * * *

Raymond J. Middleton, 121 North Whitehall Road, Norristown, Penna., has the following to say about Catbirds:

"Here is the data on Catbirds banded this year. We had a terrific start with many adults banded and with a fine crop from the first broods of young. In August, when the second broods appeared, there were no so many of them, so our year did not break any records at all for numbers.

In 1951 and 1952, we banded 231 each year, but in 1953, we banded only 125; this year, 1954, we banded 228, and, in addition, had 7 returns and 141 repeats.

"By months, they were as follows:

<u>Month</u>	<u>Adults</u>	<u>Immatures</u>	<u>Age Unknown</u>
May	39		
June	9	19	
July	9	95	
August	1	32	
September	8	7	5
October			3
November			1
	<u>64</u>	<u>153</u>	<u>9</u>

"There were no nestlings banded, and most of the immatures were taken shortly after leaving the nests. Mostly, they were caught in water traps, with some being taken in traps where soda crackers or pieces of bread were used as bait. Catbirds are very fond of poke-berries, but by the time these were ripe, most of this species were gone.

"As to the returns, one was a bird banded as an immature on July

16, 1948, and which has been taken each year since, so it was a return-5. Another, banded as an adult May 12, 1952, was back in 1953 and 1954; another, an immature banded July 18, 1952, was back in 1953 and 1954; still another, an immature banded August 26, 1951, was back in 1954 but was not taken in 1952 or 1953. The remaining three returns were of birds banded as immatures in July 1953."

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2,085 PERCENT RETURN INVESTMENT

by Paul Bartsch

In these days when our papers, radio, and television shriek with the investigation of gigantic windfall profits obtained by shady deals in federal housing, it will be a relief to learn that huge returns can be legitimately obtained, as demonstrated by an investment we have made at 'Lebanon'.

Two years ago, we purchased eight sacks (100 lbs. each) of sunflower seeds from Bolgiano which were largely devoured by the horde of Evening Grosbeaks visiting our feeding station. Last year, we raised even a larger crop which was largely consumed by several flocks of Purple Finches that spent the winter with us and enjoyed our board. In this they were joined by the rest of the seed eaters.

This year we have more than doubled our planting, and I was greatly pleased with the splendid stand obtained in spite of the drought. Being curious, I counted the seeds in one of the larger heads and was surprised that they numbered 2,085 -- 2,085% return from a single seed planted! I know of nothing that excels this investment!

This note is published in the hope that it may encourage all my readers who have a city lot to plant some sunflower seeds along their fences which will give them lovely, long-lasting flowers and, finally, food for their avian visitors.

--'Lebanon', Gunston Hall Road, Norton, Virginia

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