

RETURNS AT LAUREL, MARYLAND

by Ted J. Grisez

I hope these records may be of interest to others though it represents work done a few years ago. The number of birds involved is not large. This summary of return records is from banding that was done at the Northeastern Forest Experiment Station, Route 2, Laurel, Maryland. This is a branch of the U. S. Forest Service. The location is about one mile from the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service Bird Banding Office.

The trapping was done around buildings and on the woods' edge in a clearing of some five acres in upland oak-pine forest. Only birds banded from January through September 1950 are included. I moved in September of 1951, so birds banded after September 1950 did not have a full year's chance to return. The returns were all taken from January through September 1951.

Summary of Return Records, Laurel, Maryland

<u>Species</u>	<u>Banded</u>	<u>Returns</u>	<u>Per Cent</u>
Bob-white	1	0	0
Flicker	1	0	0
Phoebe	5	0	0
Blue Jay	5	0	0
White-crowned Sparrow	1	0	0
White-throated Sparrow	73	1	1.4
Chipping Sparrow	13	2	15.4
Field Sparrow	3	0	0
Slate-colored Junco	67	12	17.9
Song Sparrow	18	1	5.6
Lincoln's Sparrow	1	0	0
Fox Sparrow	6	1	16.7
Red-eyed Towhee	20	2	10.0
Cardinal	5	0	0
Catbird	10	3	30.0
Brown Thrasher	8	1	12.5
Carolina Wren	1	0	0
House Wren	7	3	42.9
Carolina Chickadee	3	1	33.3
Hermit Thrush	1	0	0
TOTALS	249	27	10.8

The five Phoebes, six of the Chipping Sparrows, one Field Sparrow, and one Catbird were nestlings or immature birds of the 1950 season.

Of the 23 Juncos that were banded in January and early February, there were 9 returns or 39%. This was the flock that stayed around the banding station all winter. Of the others that were migrating, or at least starting to move around, only three out of 44 (9%) returned.
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HOW DOES ONE HANDLE BANDS, FOR EXAMPLE, ON A COLD WINTER DAY?

by Rev. Garrett S. Detwiler

Being new at bird-banding, I would appreciate learning how other banders have surmounted that which I consider a very real problem in bird-banding. I refer to the actual handling of the bands during the process of banding birds, for instance, on a real cold wintry day.

To band a single bird presents little or no problem at all. In my situation, however, I often have from 5 to 20 birds in my traps at one time. To band properly each bird and, at the same time, to keep the bands in numerical order on a real cold day does present a very real problem.

To overcome this difficulty, I have tried several ways of going about the task of banding the bird properly, recording its sex, age, and keeping the bands in their proper numerical order at the same time. At first I brought the birds indoors for banding; I soon found, however, that a bird accidentally left to escape into the room and to become entangled in the lace curtains could very well prove all that is necessary to cause an immediate cessation of all banding operations at the station. Such conduct on the part of the bird does not endear bird-banding in general, or the bander in particular, to the other half of the household.

When this manner of banding proved inadvisable, I attempted to count the number of birds in the traps from inside the house and to take a sufficient number of bands outside with me.

It is amazing how many bands can become temporarily lost in the small confines of one's pockets in so short a time!