

We are grateful to all who participated in the nestling banding program for this outstanding effort. The program will be continued and extended to the Mississippi Valley in 1961, and it is hoped that the increase in the number of nestlings banded annually will continue. A list of 1960 bandings, by state, follows.

<u>State or Province</u>	<u>No. Banded</u>	<u>No. of Responses</u>
Delaware	40	3
Georgia	38	3
Maine	0	1
Maryland	109	7
Massachusetts	73	5
New Hampshire	7	1
New Jersey	454	5
New York	918	10
Pennsylvania	392	6
South Carolina	3	1
Vermont	5	2
Virginia	90	3
West Virginia	4	1
District of Columbia	0	1
Quebec	1	1
TOTAL	2,134	50

Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Laurel, Md.

EARLY BAND NUMBERS
By Mabel Gillespie

In the November-December 1960 issue of EBBA NEWS, President Dater commented on a paper presented by the late S. Prentiss Baldwin at an AOU meeting in 1919. When my husband and I started banding in 1922, Mr. Baldwin was a shining light in the banding world. His study of House Wrens is a classic. Today, of course, all banders know that House Wrens are as nonchalant and mercurial about their marital relations as movie stars.

Mrs. Dater noted that band numbers mentioned in his paper contained only five digits. The undersigned old-timer went to her files and found hundreds of five digit band numbers, such as:

Slate-colored Junco	61201	Banded in 1922
House Wren	38352	1923
Catbird	68235	1923

Even in those days of slow and restrained banding, five digits must soon have become inadequate, for I found six digit numbers used at the same time.

Brown Thrasher	110157	Banded in 1923
Common Tern	110166	1923

The sequence indicates that the same size was used for both species, which isn't the way we do it now. Letters were also used before the digit sequence; commonly so in the early thirties.

Black-capped Chickadee	A-36490	1923
Cardinal	A-224886	1931
Goldfinch	H-00163	1932
Crow	C-635954	1936

I don't know how far through the alphabet the bands went. Ours were mostly A's and C's. By the latter thirties the scheme of prefixing date digits was tried.

Cowbird	34-213145	1935
Duck Hawk	36-636701	1938

During the course of this experiment the bird banding office had a lot of trouble trying to make it clear that the "34" or "36" did not, after all, indicate the year in which the bird had been banded. It could be added that the examples of banded birds given above indicate only the year in which the band was used; not the year in which the band was issued.

Eventually three digit prefixes came into use with the third digit indicating the band size. Maybe in years to come it will be necessary to use letters again.

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