returns reported to the Survey which have to do with 103 species. The great bulk of these are from Ducks, notably the Mallard and Black Duck, but some of those relating to other species are the most interesting, as for instance, a Common Tern banded on the coast of Maine and recovered in South Nigeria, West Africa, and another of the same species banded at Brigantine, N. J. and recovered in Trinidad.

This sort of publication is most important and most practical and this is in our opinion the right way to publish banding records. The long lists of birds banded and the recovery records, scattered through various publications, do little good, as it takes too much time to look them up and correlate them. Published in this way by the Biological Survey all records are brought together in convenient form and can readily be studied and compared.

The large number of banded birds found dead at or near the banding stations demands most careful investigation in connection with the communication under "Correspondence" in the present issue of 'The Auk.' Any real menace to bird life that may be positively proven to result directly or indirectly from banding must be promptly eliminated. The birds are too valuable to be uselessly destroyed and the method of study too important to be abandoned or to have any serious criticism placed upon it.—W. S.

Chapin on the Weaver-Finches of the Genus Pyrenestes.—Mr. Chapin's latest contribution to African ornithology[1] is a study of the genus *Pyrenestes*, a group of Weaver-Finches which exhibits a variation in the size of the beak comparable to that of the Galapagos Finches (*Geospiza*). This variation has not been well understood nor has the coloration of the sexes been satisfactorily worked out. Mr. Chapin's paper is a philosophical discussion of the distribution of the species and races and their relationship to one another, to forest areas, rainfall and food. His conclusions are that there are three species clearly distinguished by their coloration: (1) a species with black and red males, ranging from the Gold Coast to Uganda: (2) one with brown and red males, occurring from Senegal to Liberia: and (3) a similar species but with the red not extending to the hind crown. Each of these species is divisible into races varying in size and in proportions of the beak, which variation is roughly correlated with changes in vegetation and rainfall, the greater size of the beak being apparently coincident with a diet of hard coated seeds of the Razor-grass (*Scleria*).

A key to the forms, tables of measurements, with maps and diagnoses, add further to the value of this interesting paper.—W. S.

Riley on Celebes Birds.—This paper,[2] by Mr. J. H. Riley of the

[1] Size Variation in Pyrenestes, a Genus of Weaver-Finches. By James P. Chapin, Bull. American Museum, Nat. Hist. Vol. XLIX, Art. IV, pp. 415–441. September 3, 1924.

[2] We regret that the National Museum has not yet been able to return to the practise of dating their papers as was the custom prior to the war. A collection of Birds from North and North-central Celebes. By J. H. Riley, Proc. U. S. Nat. Museum. Vol. 64, Art. 16, pp. 1–118. 1924.