

BANDED BIRDS: A GRAPHIC FORM OF RECORD FOR 'REPEATS'

(WITH TWO GRAPHS)

By J. EUGENE LAW

**B**Y MEANS of concentric circles, a comprehensive record may be made of the successive 'calls' that a banded bird makes to one's traps.

From a plate in the center which carries the number of the bird's band, rays are drawn to points on the respective circles, determined by the date of capture. The day of the month is inserted at the extremity of the ray. Octagonal number plates indicate that, at the time the bird was banded, it still wore some evidence of immaturity. Quadrangular plates are used where the bird had already reached maturity.

The circle can be segmented for the months, into twelve divisions if the bird is a resident, or fewer if its visits are only seasonal. The inner circle

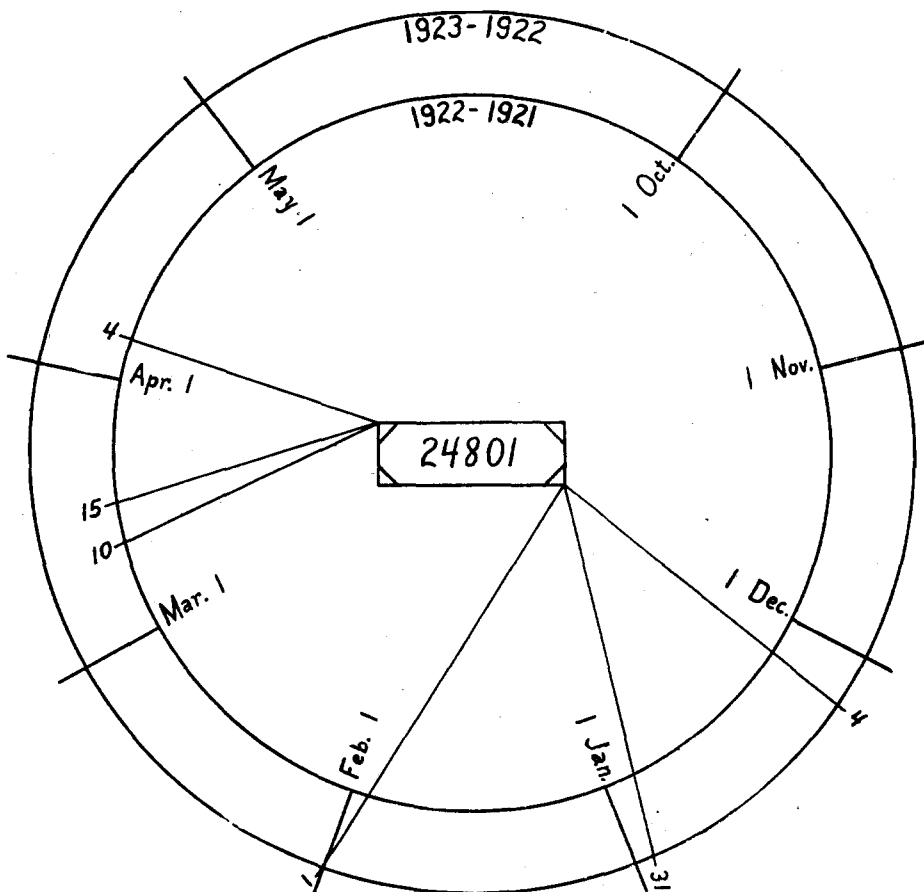


Fig. 39. GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROW, BAND NO. 24801. BANDED AT ALTADENA, CALIFORNIA, MARCH 10, 1922; REPEATED MARCH 15, APRIL 4; RETURNED DECEMBER 12; REPEATED DECEMBER 31, 1922, AND FEBRUARY 1, 1923; KILLED ON THE LATTER DATE (SEE "A GUILTY ROAD-RUNNER," ETC., P. 133).

should be the first used and successive ones can be added as the bird returns season after season.

Obviously, where one does much trapping, expedition will demand printed sheets or cards which have five or six concentric circles and the blank plate for the number.

The accompanying sketches, submitted to illustrate this system, are 'true stories' of birds which have returned the second year. One would be cold indeed who did not feel a thrill of pleasure in regaining a bird like this Golden-crowned Sparrow which had traveled all the way to British Columbia or farther, and had returned to the selfsame spot where it was banded. When one can turn to the proper page in his notebook (I use a loose-leaf system which permits filing the sheets in numerical order of bands) and at a glance find that the bird in hand has been a frequent 'caller', the friendship grows warmer.

Aside from sentimental satisfaction, however, the proposed scheme lends itself in a most satisfactory way to intensive study of the results of quantitative banding.

*Altadena, California. April 12, 1923.*

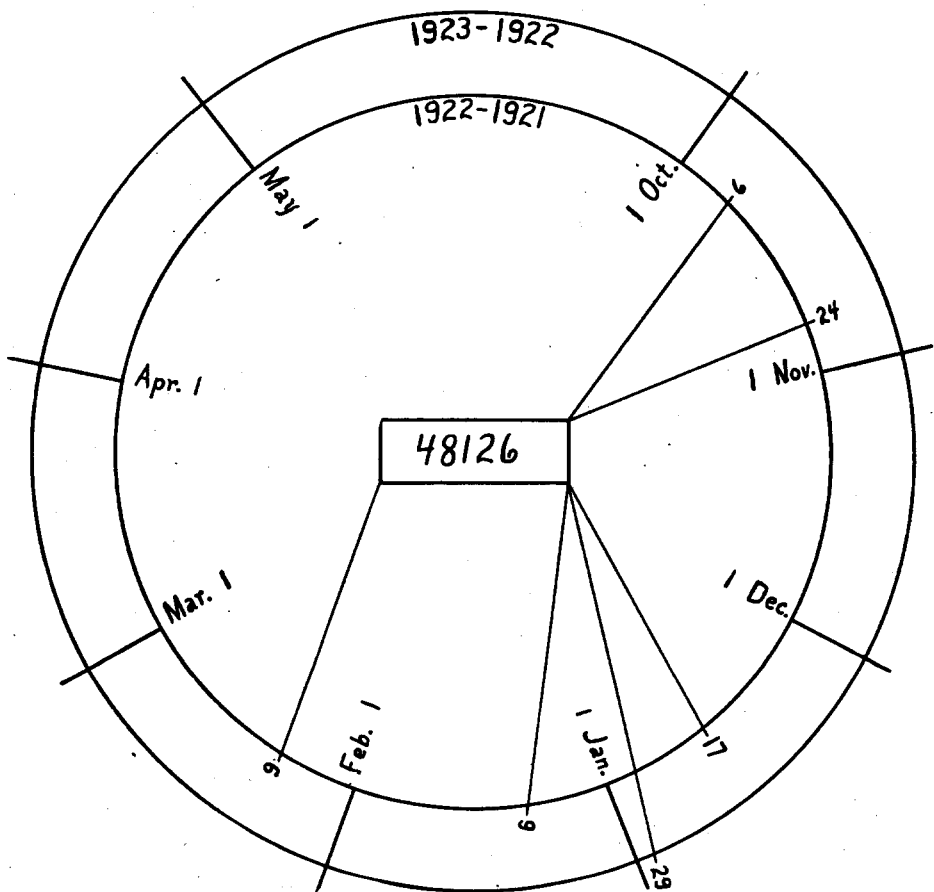


Fig. 40. GAMBEL SPARROW, BAND NO. 48126. BANDED AT LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA, OCTOBER 6, 1921; REPEATED OCTOBER 24, DECEMBER 17, 1921, JANUARY 9, FEBRUARY 9, 1922; RETURNED DECEMBER 29, 1922.