

was shot and brought to me for identification. It proved to be a Western Red-tail (*Buteo borealis calurus*) of last spring, sooted and smutted by city life until the white of the under parts was almost invisible. I am unable to verify statements as to the hawk catching pigeons in flight. Certainly, it fed well upon pigeon meat, however secured, and was apparently undisturbed by proximity of humans and the noise and smoke of the city.—L. E. WYMAN, *Los Angeles Museum, Los Angeles, California, January 28, 1925.*

## WITH THE BIRD BANDERS

Under the direction of J. Eugene Law, Altadena, California

**Trapping Notes from Altadena, California.**—On January 22, 1925, a female Western Bluebird was caught and banded as no. 129940 in the yard at my home in Altadena, California. On January 23, as I glanced out the window and saw that a female bluebird had been trapped, a Sparrow Hawk, which had been perching on the top of a near-by telephone pole, swooped down and lit on the trap. In an instant, a male bluebird dashed down and flew at the hawk time after time until the latter finally retired to the top of the pole. The male bluebird continued to hover near the trap until I had taken the female out and released her, whereupon the two flew off together. This female proved to be no. 129940 banded the day before. About an hour later a male bluebird was caught in the same trap and received band no. 129941.

Early in January, I set one of my Potter traps over a bird bath which has the water about four feet off the ground, hoping to get some of the many Green-backed Goldfinches and Pine Siskins that came in flocks to play in the water. In a short time, a flock drifted in and three of the goldfinches and a siskin were caught, two in each end of the trap, while the rest of the flock of more than 50 birds crowded over the trap and bath mound, chirping cheerily. As I approached the trap to remove the captives, the greater part of the flock remained at and around the far end of the trap, not two feet away, and stayed during the removal process, scolding at me and looking at the birds in the trap and trying to get at the water within. I reset the trap several times, repeatedly catching more birds before I could finish banding one just taken out. They virtually covered the trap and rock sides of the bath, flying from it to the fence near-by and back again like a swarm of bees. Suddenly they were off again, leaving the yard as quickly as they had come.

Another day, while banding a siskin just trapped at the bath, two of the goldfinches flew in and alighted on the trap which was closed, chirping vociferously at me. Judging that they wanted to get in for a bath, I reset the trap, while they retired to the fence. Then they immediately flew in, had their bath, and received their bands as a reward.—MRS. HARLAN H. EDWARDS, *Altadena, California, January 29, 1925.*

**The Western Bird Banding Association.**—The processes of evolution continue to operate. New necessities demand new adjustments. And the organization of the Western Bird Banding Association, unthought-of a year ago, is the natural result of today's necessity.

Primarily this necessity pertains to finances. The splendid work of a corps of energetic banders must not be wasted. There must be a depository in the West where all the occurrence data that is being collected in banding work will be assembled and maintained in a manner that will make it available to students who want to dig out its problems. The deeper aspects of these problems can best be analyzed by workers who have had direct contact with western topography and its faunas. If the West is to maintain its place, therefore, in the development of banding work, it must provide the best equipment for its workers.

Moreover, banding work, more than any other ornithological activity, demands cooperative organization. It is work in which each will contribute his bit to round out the whole. Individual observations and experimentations will continue to yield

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valuable contributions, but we must not lose sight of other phases only possible through the coöperation of many. Only by such means can the seasonal transfer of populations be traced.

Proper development of the banding work, then, demands an exchequer which can provide secretarial service to care for an extensive correspondence, and which can pay for printing and distribution of circulars, report forms, summaries, etc. Other banding functions are demanding financial support.

The plan of organization contemplates the closest coöperation with the Cooper Ornithological Club and with the Biological Survey, without interference in any way with the functions of either. The set of records will, in a way, duplicate those sent to Washington, but in more condensed form, thus avoiding an excessive added burden on the operators who furnish to the Association a record of their work. As far as possible the Association will coöperate with the several Game Commissions in careful banding studies of the game problems.

It was to perfect such a program that the Western Bird Banding Association was organized at Los Angeles on January 11, 1925, and temporary officers were elected, as follows:

Secretary, Mrs. Harlan H. Edwards  
Business Manager, Harold Michener  
Vice-President, Wright M. Pierce  
President, J. Eugene Law

Permanent organization was deferred until spring, when a meeting of all western banders will be called. The Association will devote its activities to the Western Province, that is, the states west of the 100th meridian, with the region south, and the provinces of Canada west of the 110th meridian, with the region north.

The membership roll is now open and all those interested in banding are invited to join. \$3.50 covers active membership in both the Cooper Ornithological Club and the Western Bird Banding Association, and \$1.00 covers associate membership in the latter only. Active members receive *THE CONDOR*, as do sustaining members who pay \$10.00. Life memberships are \$50.00.

**New Banding Publications.**—In October, 1924, Bulletin no. 1 of the Eastern Bird Banding Association was published, with John Treadwell Nichols as editor. While it is brief, three pages of banding notes, and two pages of roster, it started a new departure. It is the first serial to appear in America devoted primarily to banding activities. The number of well-known ornithologists in its list of 102 members indicates the place that banding work is taking in the East. A splendid feature, which may well be perpetuated, lies in the brief suggestive and supplementary notes which the editor has appended to two of the items.

Under the editorship of Charles L. Whittle, the first number of the Bulletin of the Northeastern Bird Banding Association appeared in January, 1925. It is to be issued quarterly. We like its neatness and its careful editing. This number contains three particularly "meaty" contributions to bird life-histories, all the result of careful observations in connection with banding operations. There is, also, a roster which lists 352 members, of whom 128 maintain banding stations.

The front cover of the Bulletin pictures a Chickadee in the act of weighing itself on a specially constructed scale. We will be interested in a description of this.

**Among the Banding Stations.**—Perhaps the most outstanding development in trapping technique for 1924 was the general adoption of some form of water trap. Almost any type of trap catches birds when it covers a dish or pool of water where birds habitually come to drink and bathe.

In this way Mr. and Mrs. Harlan H. Edwards, of Altadena, California, have "brought to band" with Potter traps 54 Audubon Warblers, 13 Siskins and 26 Green-backed Goldfinches during December and January. Of their 8 Western Bluebirds, some, at least, came for water, though a suet-baited trap caught the first ones. All of these birds have rather consistently ignored food-baited traps in the West.

In the heart of Pasadena, California, a Clover-leaf Trap baited with a mixture of "bird seed", sunflower seed, walnuts and mush, with a dish of water outside, has yielded Mr. and Mrs. Harold Michener 145 California Purple Finches since January 1. As 565 of the finches have been taken out of the trap, there is an average of nearly four times for each bird. This trap is on the ground under deciduous trees.