

March, 1925

WITH THE BIRD BANDERS

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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.