

Will the results to be obtained by banding warrant a certain amount of inconvenience to the birds, with occasional fatalities, mainly from predatory animals? The science of geographical distribution is based upon quantities of occurrence records, no small proportion of which exacted the death penalty from the recorder. But banding leaves the great bulk of the recordees free to complete their life cycle and to make subsequent records. And by banding alone can the routes and manner of migration be solved. The results already achieved would seem to justify the belief that banding will take a constantly increasing part in bird study activities, no matter what angle the latter may take.

Conclusions based on quantitative banding must depend upon successive years of comprehensive data. Banders are no less impatient than are some of their critics (who, strangely, include some experimental and systematic zoologists whose own studies require long years of patient accumulation of data) for the time when adequate analyses are possible. The splendid talent already apparent within the ranks insures ultimate credit.

Yes, band every bird you can. And induce others to band. Bird banders are bird lovers and they instinctively guarantee fair treatment for the birds.

Western Bird Banding Association.—The charter membership roll in the Association will close with 1925. Those in the Western Province not yet members are urged to join at once. Although the first annual meeting was postponed to 1926 by the Council, in order to coincide with the first annual meeting of the Cooper Club, certain plans of organization have been perfected looking toward definite progress in banding work.

Harold Michener, as business manager (418 Elm St., Pasadena, Calif.), will have charge of the membership campaign. All dues should be sent to him. John McB. Robertson (Buena Park, Calif.) will have charge of the annual reports to be filed by members and will compile, as he did this year, the annual census. He proposes, too, to make a special study of the migration of the *Zonotrichia leucophrys* group, as brought out by banding. Any pertinent data should be sent him. Harlan H. Edwards (2311 N. Allen, Altadena, Calif.) is taking charge of the record of bands issued to western banders, as a means of quickly locating the bander when a strange band turns up.

It is hoped, too, that 1926 finances will warrant frequent circularization of the membership, in order that the stimulative gossip of the traps may be passed around.—J. EUGENE LAW, *Altadena, California*.

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

"Priority", a Prophecy.—In reviewing Tegetmeier's reprint of Boddaert's "Table des Planches Enluminées d' Histoire Naturelle", the late Edward Newman, writing in the "Zoologist" of May, 1875 (pp. 4438-9), referred to the "Law of Priority" in words that were prophetic fifty years ago, are true today, and unless scientific names are given the protection of a definite time limit of use, will be equally true fifty years hence.

Mr. Newman, founder and for thirty-two years editor of the "Zoologist", wrote with insight: "I am quite ready to admit the good intention, enterprise, industry,—aye, even the accuracy,—of Mr. Tegetmeier's labours but I fail to see their utility, for supposing ~~and~~ even two dozen names may be changed in deference to Boddaert's authority, as is very possible, it will be a matter of regret, rather than rejoicing, and will cause infinite labour to future compilers and infinite confusion to future students. The 'Law of Priority', as explained by the British Association and worked out by restless nomenclators, is essentially a law of change. The task of name-altering, once begun, can never be ended; it is a pouring of water into vessels that have no bottom; it is the ascending of a tread-wheel that can revolve only on its own axis; it is the laborious manufacture of 'Dissolving Views'."—J. H. FLEMING, *Toronto, Canada, August 11, 1925*.