

Museum
Zoology
Detroit
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BULLETIN
OF THE
NORTHEASTERN BIRD-BANDING ASSOCIATION

FOREWORD

In submitting this first number of Bulletin to our members it is proper to say a word as to the purposes it is planned to serve. These objects are to furnish a medium wherein our members can publish matters of interest to bird-banders and of value to ornithology, and by means of which the Council can keep in touch with the needs of individual banders. It is planned to issue four numbers of the Bulletin each year.

The makeup and character of the matter appearing in this number it is hoped will be approved by our members, namely, an article in the nature of an editorial, several short articles of three to five hundred words each containing observations having ornithological significance, and short miscellaneous observations which are printed under the caption, "General Notes."

In order that this organ, in its modest way, may keep to a definite standard, articles or notes submitted for publication will be carefully edited and if approved will appear in due season with the writer's name attached in the customary manner.

The publication of the Bulletin cannot be maintained as planned unless all our members work to this end, and by this we mean that every member, in addition to matter submitted for the bulletin, shall also send to our Recording Secretary from time to time observations of interest made at banding stations and elsewhere; and this applies to both active and inactive members.

DR. STONE ON BIRD-BANDING*

"We have referred to the present-day possibilities of field study, but there are other lines of work opening up for him [the ornithologist] which only a few years ago were practically unknown. The most important of these is bird-banding and the host of possibilities that it presents—the study of the individual as opposed to the species, migra-

* Part of an address delivered by Dr. Witmer Stone at the Fiftieth Anniversary of The Nuttall Ornithological Club, Cambridge, Massachusetts, December, 1923, published by the Club, October, 1924.

tion, behavior, etc., etc. Like the use of the binoculars, bird-banding might be termed another improved method of study and like nomenclature it must be regarded as a means, not an end, of zoölogical science. It will be in the next generation that bird-banding will come into its own, when sufficient returns are on record to work out definitely lines of migration and kindred things, but there are meanwhile numerous problems that are being worked out even now with most satisfactory results. Furthermore, there are all sorts of side lines being carried along with the bird-banding activities, increased cooperation with organizations dealing with bird conservation, spreading of the popular interest in bird study and, most important of all, a definite plan for ornithological education. This is a novel idea, and one with great possibilities. We have, I fear, been too prone in the past to consider the ornithologist born and not made, and to let the young student educate himself. Bird-banding, attracting attention as it does from an entirely new angle, naturally draws its devotees to a large extent from new classes or groups never before interested in ornithology. They look upon the older ornithologists, I fear, as a precious lot of conservatives, and many of our methods as antiquated; and in many cases they are right, and the remedies and innovations which they propose should be welcomed. They all tend to strengthen the interests that we all have at heart and make for a broader and better ornithology. Bird-banding is going to be a big part of the ornithology of tomorrow."

BLUEBIRD BEHAVIOR AT HIGHLAND VIEW FARM

BY A. W. HIGGINS

DURING 1924 only one pair of Bluebirds (*Sialia s. sialis*) nested on my farm at Rock (Middleboro), Massachusetts. This pair arrived together, mated, on Feb. 27th and spent the next four or five weeks in making up their minds which bird-house suited them best. Nest-building began about April 15th. The first set numbered five eggs, all of which hatched, the young leaving the nest on May 24th. These were all banded except one—numbers 71946-7-8-9. The parents wear bands 71944 (♂) and 71950 (♀). The old birds remained with the young until they could care for themselves, and then a second nest was built in which four eggs