

# BULLETIN

OF THE

Northeastern Bird-Banding Association

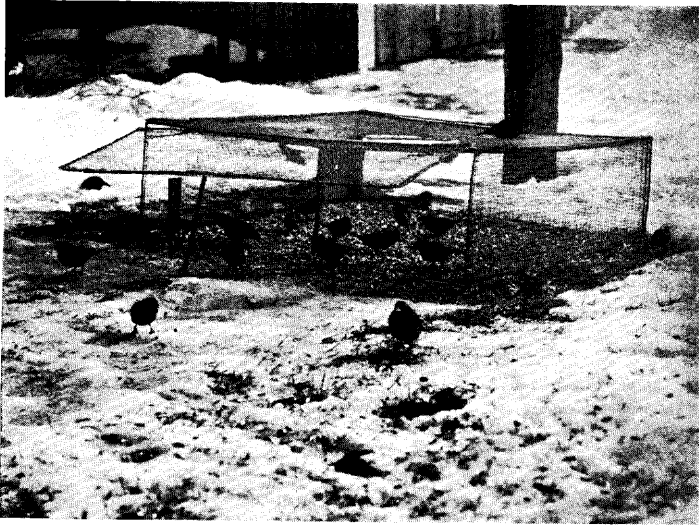
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NORTHEASTERN BIRD-BANDING ASSOCIATION

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BOSTON, MASS.

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times in 1925, the last time on March 22d, so that she is now nearly two years old if she was born in 1923. A male Downy, No. 86727, banded on the same day, repeated six times, the last time January 18, 1925. Many of the Downies, and perhaps all, come at intervals throughout the nesting-season, but I do not trap them during the summer. They doubtless nest near by. It is a matter of surprise to find that, of the twenty-one Downies banded, over seventy-one per cent were females. Whether this ratio is accidental or not, I have no knowledge. Confirmation or denial is needed. and bird-banders are in a position to secure the facts. If the ratio is confirmed, it is to be expected that a disparity of the sexes so unusual must be reflected in the habits of the species, although habits attributable to such inequality have not been discovered.

On a number of occasions a young Downy followed its mother to my banding station, where she fed it with three or four fragments of suet. These were placed in the mouth of the young after the manner of Robins, no evidence of regurgitation being observed.

Of the six Hairy Woodpeckers banded, four were females. This ratio of two to one is very interesting, but, as the number of this species banded is so small, the excess of females may well be accidental. Two of the females repeated once, Nos. 120712 and 243016. This species is much less abundant about my station, and traps less easily. They, in common with the Downies, pretty surely nest near by.—MRS. ARTHUR B. EMMONS, 2d, Dover, Massachusetts, March, 1925.

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**Caution.**—Our attention has again been called to the great need of accurately reading band numbers. To read them incorrectly is to introduce inexcusable error into scientific work, error which may lead to false conclusions on the one hand and on the other hand to the loss of important records.

It is best not to attempt to read numbers when they are wrong side up, and in all cases it should be kept in mind that some figures, only partially in sight (due to the band-surface being curved), may be easily mistaken for others. For example, figure 8 often appears to be the figure 3; figure 9 bottom side up, the figure 6; and, conversely, the figure 6 becomes figure 9. Figure 5, hastily read, may be reported as figure 6. In a dim light, figure 3 may be read an 8. The letter A, on certain series of numbers, issued by the Biological Survey, is likely to be overlooked as it is placed at the end of the line of letters instead of at the end of the number. A figure in a number is sometimes omitted.

The use of a lens in this work is recommended. Haste in banding birds and in reading band numbers make for errors, inadequate study, and careless and scanty note-taking.

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Word has just come that Professor Frederick A. Saunders of Cambridge, Massachusetts, has recovered at Kittery Point, Maine, on March 30, 1925, Tree Sparrow No. 67250, banded by Mrs. F. D. Hubbard at New Haven, Connecticut, January 31, 1923. The distance between these two banding stations in a straight line is one hundred and sixty-nine miles. This record is unique as far as this Association is concerned on account of the distance from one station to the other. It is records of this sort that will enable us in time to know the details of a species's migration.