

B U L L E T I N  
OF THE  
NORTHEASTERN BIRD-BANDING ASSOCIATION

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BIRD-BANDING AT COHASSET, MASSACHUSETTS

BY DR. JOHN B. MAY

WE enthusiasts have sometimes said that "bird-banding has at last put Cohasset on the map," in spite of the fact that it has been there ever since John Smith first visited "Konohasset" over three hundred years ago. But since the days of the founding of the Northeastern Bird-Banding Association, the name of Cohasset has appeared at frequent intervals coupled with reports of banding adventures, notes on bird behavior, and descriptions of newly devised traps and trapping methods.

Cohasset is admirably located for the bird-lover. The spring migrants, following the coastal region of Southern New England to Massachusetts Bay, swing northward to Scituate and Cohasset, where the westerly trend of the shore of Boston Harbor frequently checks their journey. The summering birds find a very varied terrain—rocky headlands and islets, sand or pebble beaches, wide areas of salt marsh and of cultivated fields, orchards, pastures, woodlands of pine and hemlock and mixed hardwoods, cedar swamps and dense thickets of briers. The south-bound autumnal migrants, crossing Massachusetts Bay from the North Shore, finding an abundant supply of fruits and berries,—holly, bayberry, ivy, cedar, buckthorn, and others,—linger late. And in winter the nearness of the ocean tempers the cold, the thickets of junipers and catbrier furnish shelter from sweeping winds, and the ground is seldom covered with snow for any long periods.

Within a comparatively short distance in the town, five feeding and banding stations have been maintained for some time by members of the Northeastern Bird-Banding Association, and the following species of birds have been banded by members of the group.

BIRDS BANDED AT COHASSET, MASSACHUSETTS, UP TO  
MARCH, 1925

Bob-white	Savanna Sparrow	Myrtle Warbler
Screech Owl	White-crowned Sparrow	Pine Warbler
Kingfisher	White-throated Sparrow	Maryland Yellow-throat
Downy Woodpecker	Tree Sparrow	Redstart
Chimney Swift	Chipping Sparrow	Mockingbird
Kingbird	Field Sparrow	Catbird
Phoebe	Slate-colored Junco	House Wren
Blue Jay	Song Sparrow	White-breasted Nuthatch
Starling	Swamp Sparrow	Red-breasted Nuthatch
Cowbird	Fox Sparrow	Chickadee
Red-winged Blackbird	Towhee	Golden-crowned Kinglet
Baltimore Oriole	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Bronzed Grackle	Indigo Bunting	Wood Thrush
Purple Finch	Barn Swallow	Robin
Goldfinch	Tree Swallow	Bluebird
Pine Siskin	Yellow Warbler	

A large number of "repeats" have furnished some interesting data on molting and similar problems, there have been many "returns" of banded birds after a considerable interval of time, and the "interchanges" of individual birds between the different stations in Cohasset have proved of quite a little local interest. Many Purple Finches and Goldfinches have traded back and forth with some frequency, one of the former and three of the latter having been reported at three of the five stations, and one or two Song Sparrows, Juncoes, Chickadees, and Pine Siskins have also visited two different stations. One bird, banded at Station B, was trapped at Station C one hour and fifty-five minutes later. There have also been several interchanges with other stations lying within forty miles of Cohasset (Purple Finches and Goldfinches).

The following table gives an idea of the possibilities in "interchanges" of birds when several stations are located within one community.

INTERCHANGES OF PURPLE FINCHES  
COHASSET, MASSACHUSETTS, UP TO MARCH, 1925

(See map below for location of stations and by whom operated)

MR. LAURENCE B. FLETCHER

Banded at Station A	Recovered at Station A
Recovered at B, 4	Banded at B, 8

MR. AND MRS. CHARLES L. WHITTLE

Banded at Station B	Recovered at Station B
Recovered at A, 7	Banded at A, 4
“ “ C, 8	“ “ C, 10
“ “ D, 17	“ “ D, 18
“ “ E, 1	

MR. CONOVER FITCH

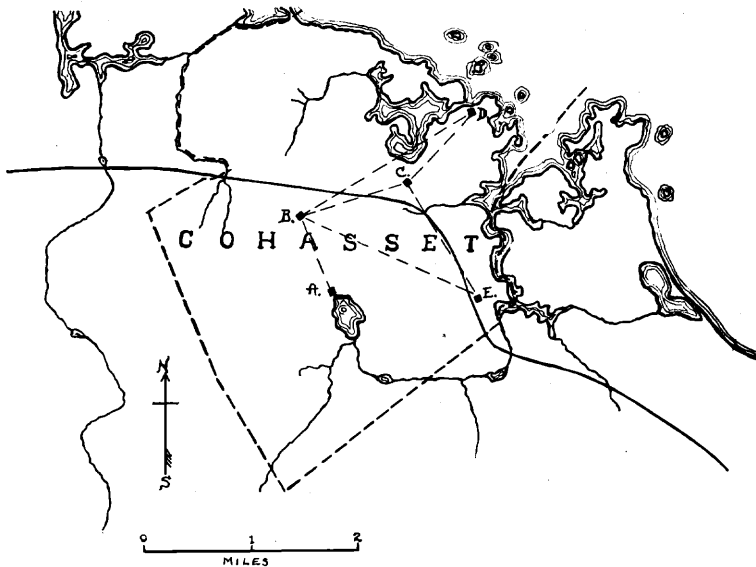
Banded at Station C	Recovered at Station C
Recovered at B, 10	Banded at B, 7
“ “ D, 7	“ “ D, 3

MR. AND MRS. RICHARD B. HARDING

Banded at Station D	Recovered at Station D
Recovered at B, 18	Banded at B, 17
“ “ C, 3	“ “ C, 7

DR. JOHN B. MAY

Recovered at Station E	Banded at B, 1
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OUTLINE MAP OF COHASSET, MASSACHUSETTS  
SHOWING LOCATION OF BANDING STATIONS

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|---|---|
| A. Station of Mr. L. B. Fletcher              | C. Station of Mr. Conover Fitch               |
| B. Station of Mr. and Mrs. Charles L. Whittle | D. Station of Mr. and Mrs. Richard B. Harding |
| E. Station of Dr. John B. May                 |   |