

GENERAL NOTES

Cowbird History.—*A very interesting record of Cowbird migration was obtained from two birds banded at Rochester, New York. Number 69453, an adult female banded June 29, 1923, returned June 8, 1924, repeating June 10, and was recaptured April 25, 1925.

In the trap with this female on April 25, 1925, was a male to which I gave No. 69854. Now comes the remarkable occurrence; this adult male No. 69854, banded in the spring of 1925, was reported by Ellis Lowell as shot near Mont Belvieu, Texas, on August 15, 1926. That some Cowbirds return year after year to the same breeding-area is proven by No. 69453 returning twice to Rochester. On the other hand, No. 69854 evidently was a migrant from the South in 1925, but not in 1926, as he was found in Texas in midsummer (August 15).‡

Cowbirds breed in Texas and near Rochester, New York, and one wonders which was his birthplace.

On account of the fact that the southern portion of the nesting-range of the Cowbird is also part of the wintering area of the species, groups occurring there would be likely to contain both residents and migrants, that is, part of the birds would be migratory and part nonmigratory.

Is it possible that a certain individual may be migratory one year and a resident another year? My experience, while not conclusive, would suggest this probability.—R. E. DORSEY, Highland Park, Rochester, New York, December 17, 1926.

An Expedition to Northern Labrador.—Dr. O. L. Austin of New York and his son, O. L. Austin, Jr., who is a member of this Association, are planning to make a four months' trip this summer to northern Labrador and possibly Baffin Land in their auxiliary schooner, the "Ariel." They will continue their ornithological researches begun on that coast last summer, and plan to visit most of the bird rookeries in the region. Puffins, Razor-billed Auks, Black Guillemots, Arctic Terns, and Kittiwake, Herring, Glaucus and Great Black-backed Gulls breed there in abundance. Other species such as small shore birds, ducks of several species, a few Hawks and Owls, and many northern passerines nest along the coast in easily accessible places. The expedition also plans to take motion pictures of the domestic habits of the wild life encountered, as far as possible, and

* Mr. Horsey raises an interesting question in this paper, but to our minds, he leaves it still a question, even as to this particular case that he cites. There is, of course, no inherent impossibility in his assumption that the Cowbird taken in the middle of August had bred in the immediate neighborhood, but it seems to us that, as a possibility, that hypothesis is more remote than either one of two others — first, that the bird had bred in its northern home and migrated early to the South; and second, that it had been detained in Texas by some accident during the preceding winter until the migrating instinct had passed and had spent the summer there in a state of celibacy. It is possible, too, that a bird thus detained by force of circumstances against its will or instinct might breed in an isolated instance, but this would not imply that a migrating bird exercised its own option in breeding so far from its previous summer home. By the way, can August 15th properly be called midsummer, ornithologically speaking. Is it not rather early autumn, or even approaching mid-autumn for some species. Has Mr. Horsey any information as to when the first migrant Cowbirds from the North reach Texas.

THE EDITORS.

‡ Mr. Charles L. Whittle calls my attention to the remote possibility of 69854 having migrated from the north in 1926 and arriving in Texas by August 15th. Our last sight record for Rochester in 1926 is August 18th and might suggest an early migration. This is unusual, however, as my fourteen years' sight records show that Cowbirds usually leave Rochester the end of October, my latest date being December 2, 1917.

will take five thousand bands of various sizes to place on young birds. Since many of the nesting birds of Labrador are believed to migrate through or to winter in New England, the results of this banding work promise to be both interesting and important.

A Red-shouldered Hawk Recovery.—Dr. Edward Gould Rowland banded a nestling Red-shouldered Hawk, No. 311766, in Belchertown, Massachusetts, on June 27, 1926. At the time of banding the identity of the species was in doubt on account of the fact that the parent birds were not seen. The matter of species-determination, however, has been cleared up by Mr. Harry W. Sterner, of Hanover, Pa., who trapped the bird on December 25, 1926, and who identified it as a Red-shouldered Hawk (*Buteo l. lineatus*). The Hawk was uninjured by the trap and was subsequently released still wearing band No. 311766.

A Roseate Tern Recovery.—A Roseate Tern (*Sterna dougalli*), No. 434099, banded by Mr. Charles B. Floyd at Tern Island, Chatham, Mass., July 6, 1926, has just been reported from Trinidad by the American Vice-Consul on the island, under date of February 23, 1927. The Bureau of Biological Survey in forwarding the record to Mr. Floyd states that the bird was probably dead when found.

Three publications of great importance appeared during 1926 dealing with the varied aspects of bird-migration. In these the value of bird-banding as a method of attacking the problems of migration is conspicuously brought out, and many contributions already made by banders are recorded.

The titles of these publications are as follows:

“The Migrations of Birds”

By Alexander Wetmore,

“Problems of Bird-Migration”

By A. Landsborough Thomson,

“On Photoperiodism, Reproductive Periodicity, and the Annual Migrations of Birds and Certain Fishes”

By William Rowan.

Proceedings of the Boston Society of Natural History, 1926, Vol. 38 No. 6, pp. 147-189.

Dr. Allen's Lectures on Ornithology.—We have frequent inquiries asking us if we can supply sets of Dr. Glover M. Allen's ten lectures on the Elements of Ornithology delivered in Boston in 1924 under the auspices of this Association. Our files contain several copies of each lecture excepting number one, of which we have none. If any one possesses an extra copy of this first number that can be spared, we shall appreciate having it sent to our Recording Secretary, Mrs. Alice B. Harrington, State House 136, Boston, Mass. With complete sets available, we can still further distribute these lectures to the advantage of all concerned.

In filling out record cards to be sent to our Recording Secretary, it is not necessary for banders to give after their name more than their town and State address.

All banders' records should be sent *direct* to Mrs. Alice B. Harrington, Room 136, State House, Boston, Mass.