

GENERAL NOTES

The "Rawson-MacMillan Field Museum Expedition" to Band Birds.—Your Secretary has perfected arrangements whereby the forthcoming Rawson-MacMillan Field Museum Expedition to Labrador and Baffin Land will include bird banding as a part of its scientific investigations. Captain Donald B. MacMillan will take with him five thousand bands which the Biological Survey is now having made for him.

For several years Captain MacMillan has been one of Mr. E. H. Forbush's most trustworthy observers, and on this expedition he will personally take part in the banding work. A letter received from him on June 11, 1927, written at Freeport, Maine, contains the following details of his plans:

"We are leaving Wiscasset, Maine, on June 25th to cruise beyond the Arctic Circle following the Labrador and Baffin Land coasts. About September 1st we shall proceed south to Northern Labrador and there establish a permanent scientific station near the Eskimo village of Nain. Our banding will be done next June and July, 1928, on the young of the Glaucous and Great Black-backed Gull, Eider Duck, Coot, and Canada Goose especially."

A scientific staff will accompany him, consisting of Alfred C. Weed, Ichthyologist; Dr. Duncan D. Strong, Anthropologist; Sharat K. Roy, Geologist; Arthur S. Rueckert, Zoologist; Charles Sewall, Botanist; and Novio Bertrand, Taxidermist.

At a meeting of the Council of this Association held at the State House on June 7, 1927, Captain MacMillan, who will be in charge of the expedition, was elected a Vice President of the Northeastern Bird Banding Association, and as a member of this Association he will of course deposit copies of his banding records with our Recording Secretary.

A Partial Record of the Nesting of the Kingfisher.—On May 30, 1925, we found the nesting hole of a pair of Kingfishers (*Ceryle alcyon*) about a mile from Lake Asquam, New Hampshire, in the Town of Ashland. On May 31st, my husband, following the advice of Mr. Charles J. Maynard, made an opening into the nest cavity from a pit opened from the surface to a point about six inches in the rear of the nesting passageway. When we had counted the eggs, seven in number, we filled the hole with sand and loam. The next time we visited it we found that some animal had dug through our filling material and destroyed two young birds. After this we put some big rocks into the opening, chinked them with pine needles, and replaced a couple of shovel-fulls of earth to finish off with.

Each of the five times we examined the nest the rocks, etc., had to be removed and replaced. If rocks are not used, skunks or other animals may dig out the soft earth and eat the young birds. A large bag of mosquito netting was placed over two saplings in front of the hole before the nesting hole was opened, the female immediately rushing out into the bag. She was then photographed and banded, No. 213220.

On June 13th the eggs were pipped, and on June 22nd the five remaining fledglings were banded, then nine days old. Their fat bare bodies and "flippers" of wings without any natal down gave them a most fantastic appearance. Their beaks were enormous and their eyes were not yet open.

On the fifth of July, when the young Kingfishers were twenty-three days old and were in nearly full juvenal plumage, we took the photograph