

the laurel, about twenty feet from the nest. They were placed in a gathering cage, weighed, measured, and the details of their plumage recorded.

My Chardonneret trap containing one fledgling was next placed near the blind with the result that the male was quickly trapped and banded with a rose-colored band, number A15648. Half an hour later the return female was trapped, and her number, A65065, which she wore on the left tarsus was confirmed. At this time I banded her right tarsus with a rose-colored band, number A15642, in the hope of getting a "Sight Return" of her next year.

The three fledglings of this year's nest wear numbers A15644 (yellow band left), A15645 (yellow band right), and A15647, a blue band.

So far I have not seen her last year's mate.—KATHARINE C. HARDING, June 28, 1927.

A Plea for More Bird-Weighers.—The heaviest adult Song Sparrows I have banded were captured at Cohasset, Massachusetts, in early April 1926. These ranged in weight between 25.00 and 27.00 grams. In her journal such birds were described as "large and rangy" by Mrs. Whittle, who has banded several during the late fall (October) migration in Peterboro, New Hampshire, but they were not weighed. Such birds in all cases have passed through our stations as migrants and none has been captured as a repeat or a return. In a paper appearing in *The Auk** I have called attention to such unusually heavy birds and raised the question whether they were not representatives of a northern race of this species, not collected on its breeding grounds, but appearing in our museums (collected in migration) as the largest specimens of the Eastern Song Sparrow. It has been stated that a variation in the measured parts of birds of 20 percent may be expected.

It is presumed that Song Sparrows having measurements much in excess of the average are also heavier than the average. Acting on this theory, I have begun an investigation of the average weight of *nesting* Song Sparrows both in Peterboro and in Cohasset, and to date eight such birds have been weighed, the range in weight being from 20.00 to 22.00 grams, and the average weight being 21.09 grams, or four to five grams less than the heavy birds taken in April. The sexes of these birds were not determined. It is too early to make any inferences from these meagre data. All eight birds are feeding daily at our banding stations, a surplus of canary seeds being always available so that the birds are not likely to be underweight.

The writer would like assistance in this investigation by having others of our members take up bird-weighing in general as a part of their regular work. Balances, sensitive to fractions of a gram, are not expensive. Live bird-weighing is a rather neglected ornithological field. I feel sure that the determination of the average weights of locally nesting birds of many species throughout their ranges, itself well worth finding out, will furnish in addition information of value at present not easily foreseen.—CHARLES L. WHITTLE, Cohasset, Massachusetts, June 1927.

A Chebec Recovery.—Mr. A. W. Higgins reports the recovery of a Least Flycatcher, or Chebec, (*Empidonax minimus*) near Lake Assawompssett, Middleboro, Massachusetts, on June 4, 1927. This bird was banded

*"On the Nature of the Relationship existing Among Land Birds During Sustained Aerial Migration", Vol. XLIII, 1926, p. 498 (foot-note).

by him at Rock, Massachusetts, some five miles southwesterly from where it was found dead, and was one of two fledglings banded July 3, 1924.

Recoveries of Northern Water Birds, Banded by Harrison F. Lewis.—Mr. Harrison F. Lewis reports the recovery of a Ring-billed Gull (*Larus delawarensis*) No. 405860, a juvenile, banded by him in Fog Island Sanctuary, Saguenay County, Quebec, on July 15, 1926. The bird was captured by O. F. Swed at Crystal River, Florida, on March 18, 1927.

A Common Murre (*Uria t. troille*) No. 201439, a juvenile, banded by him on August 10, 1926, at Cape Whittle Sanctuary, Saguenay County, Quebec, was shot at Hermitage, Newfoundland, February 8, 1927.

A Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*) No. 418714, banded by him as a juvenile at St. Mary Islands, Saguenay County, Quebec, on August 3, 1926, was taken by Peter Rioux at Winter Houses, Port au Port, St. Georges District, Newfoundland, and reported on May 13, 1927. The date of the capture and the ultimate fate of the bird were not reported.

Corrections.—In Re Purple Finch (*Carpodacus p. purpureus*), Mr. Edward H. Forbush writes the editor as follows under date of May 6, 1927:

"I would like an opportunity to make a correction of that matter I wrote for the April 1927 Bird Banding Bulletin, page 34. I either wrote or the printer made me write that the Purple Finch turned suddenly red in spring. It should have been—turned suddenly redder, or that its red intensifies."

In Re Ring-billed Gull (*Larus delawarensis*) and Common Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*), Mr. Harrison F. Lewis has called attention to the fact that the Ring-billed Gull and the Common Cormorant banded by him are erroneously listed as returns under the heading "A Partial List of Birds which Have Been Captured as Returns at or near their Old Nesting Places" published in the Bulletin of this Association for October 1926, page 85. The inclusion of these birds in the above list was not justified by the information in our files and the records should be stricken from the list. As used by the Bureau of Biological Survey, these captures were indeed returns, but the list was published to show the approximate number of species within the territory of this Association which, banded on their nesting grounds, were recaptured there during a later nesting season, in an attempt to answer the question so often asked, namely,—Do migratory birds return to their old nesting place to nest?