

its bearing on the status of subspecies in general established in part by studies of museum collections of bird-skins, where small differences in color are often cited as evidence of racial variation. It is not easy to understand how it is that a "dead" feather is worn by a bird for months, during which its color is maintained, when a similar-colored feather six weeks after its removal loses much of its color by fading.

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### GENERAL NOTES

**Some results from Banding Sea-Birds.**—The continued banding of sea-birds on their breeding grounds on the north shore of the Gulf of St. Lawrence is providing a variety of information, some of which may be of sufficient interest to readers of the *Bulletin* to warrant its publication here. It is felt that these data are yet too few, however, to make it desirable to attempt to draw any very general conclusions from them. In the case of the recovery of numbers 302454, 302464, and 302476, Double-crested Cormorants (see records below), it is interesting to observe the fairly close proximity to one another, in this case at least, of young birds from one colony after some eight hundred miles of migration. This is in marked contrast to the wanderings of some young Gulls, whose native groups, not only those of the colony, but those of the individual family, seem often to break up soon after the young can fly.

The shifting of numbers 405937 and 405938, Razor-billed Auks, from one island, on which they bred in 1926, to another island, on which they bred in 1927, is the first example of such change of breeding-place that I have observed in any birds of their family. It is probably explainable by the fact that large banks of snow lay on St. Mary Islands so late in the spring and early summer of 1927 that many sheltered places where Auks, Murres, Puffins, and Guillemots were accustomed to lay their eggs were covered with snow all through June, and the birds that were in the habit of using these particular places had to seek elsewhere a shelter for their eggs. The two islands concerned in this known instance are very close to one another, and are connected at low tide.

The Puffins and Razor-billed Auks in this list had undoubtedly migrated between the time of their original banding and the time of their recapture, for there are no birds of these species about St. Mary Islands in winter. These recaptures may therefore rank as "returns."

All of the birds recorded below were banded by the writer, who also made those recaptures of living birds that are not accredited to others.

No. 368632, Razor-billed Auk, banded as an adult on Eastern Island of the St. Mary Islands group, Saguenay County, Quebec, on July 16, 1925, was recaptured on the same island on July 21, 1927. As the band was badly worn, it was removed and replaced by new band No. 497504, and the bird was then released.

No. 405914, Razor-billed Auk, banded as an adult on the Western Island of the St. Mary Islands group, Saguenay County, Quebec, on August 2, 1926, was recaptured on the same island on July 24, 1927, and released.

No. 405937, Razor-billed Auk, banded as an adult on Western Island, of the St. Mary Islands group, Saguenay County, Quebec, on August 3,

1926, was recaptured on Middle Island, of the same group, on July 24 1927, and released.

No. 405938, Razor-billed Auk, has a record identical with that of No. 405937.

No. 210439, Puffin, banded as an adult at St. Mary Islands, Saguenay County, Quebec, on July 24, 1923, was recaptured on Western Island, of the St. Mary Islands group, on June 28, 1927, by C. H. Watson, and released. Mr. Watson was accompanied by Fred W. Osborne, caretaker of St. Mary Islands Bird Sanctuary, and on July 24, 1927, Mr. Osborne conducted me to this same bird's nesting-place, and we caught it again. The band was so worn that only the numerals "210" could be read, but they were clear. Bands of the series beginning with "210" have been placed on Puffins in this country only in July, 1923, and then on three Puffins only, and a careful check of the official Canadian records with my original field diary satisfies me entirely that this bird is No. 210439. Because the band was worn, it was removed and replaced by new band No. 497520, and the bird was then released.

No. 368667, Puffin, banded as an adult on Cliff Island, of the St. Mary Islands group, Saguenay County, Quebec, on July 19, 1925, was recaptured on the same island on July 27, 1927. It was accidentally killed while being handled by my assistant.

No. 302473, Double-crested Cormorant, banded as a juvenile in Fog Island Sanctuary, Saguenay County, Quebec, on August 2, 1927, was shot at Little Creek, near Norfolk, Virginia, on December 4, 1927.

No. 302454, Double-crested Cormorant, banded as a juvenile in Fog Island Sanctuary, Saguenay County, Quebec, on August 2, 1927, was found dead on the shore of Peconic Bay, near the National Golf Links, Southampton, Long Island, New York, on October 22, 1927.

No. 302464, Double-crested Cormorant, banded as a juvenile in Fog Island Sanctuary, Saguenay County, Quebec, on August 2, 1927, was found dead on the shore of Gardiner's Bay, near Amagansett, Long Island, New York, on October 23, 1927.

No. 302476, Double-crested Cormorant, banded as a juvenile in Fog Island Sanctuary, Saguenay County, Quebec, on August 2, 1927, was shot at Cedar Beach, near Cedar Island lighthouse, Long Island, New York, on October 21, 1927.

No. 302901, Double-crested Cormorant, banded as a juvenile at Cormorant Rocks, Cape Whittle Sanctuary, Saguenay County, Quebec, on July 16, 1927, was recaptured near Sound View, Connecticut, and reported on October 20, 1927.—HARRISON F. LEWIS.

**Quartering Flight.**—*Irregularity of lack of returns for migrant Tree Sparrows* has been mentioned by Don V. Messer (*Bulletin of the North-eastern Bird-Banding Association*, Vol. II, No. 2, p. 31), who says "the local rarity is difficult to account for," and Richard E. Horsey (Vol. II, No. 3, p. 48) writes, "True migrants are seldom seen after leaving station." Regarding Juncos, Herbert Parker mentions (Vol. II, No. 4, p. 62), one return of 180 banded, and Wendell P. Smith says (Vol. III, No. 1, p. 7), "We have had no returns from Slate-colored Juncos."

Of White-throated Sparrows, Mr. Parker in the article cited mentions no returns of nearly one hundred banded: Mary E. F. Hubbard (Vol. II, No. 1, p. 16), has one return record for 104 banded, and at the station of Mr. and Mrs. Richard B. Harding, referred to in Vol. II, No. 2, p. 37, two