

## GENERAL NOTES

**Migrating Blue Jays.** Dr. Eugene C. Ufford has had reported to him by the Biological Survey the first recovery of a migrating Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta c. cristata*) made of a bird of this species banded in New England of which we have knowledge. This bird, an adult, No. 249271, was banded by him in Auburndale, Massachusetts, September 2, 1927, and was captured at Crosskill, New Jersey, November 20, 1927.

A second migration record of this race of the Blue Jay was reported by Mr. Benjamin Shreve of a bird, No. 524765, banded by him at Cotuit, Massachusetts, August 25, 1927, which was taken at Cooleenec, North Carolina, on the Piedmont Plateau, about 450 miles away, by Theodore Hilliard, December 16, 1927.

These two recoveries are of great interest as they are the sort of things that will in time tell us whether there is orderliness or lack of it in the distribution of this race throughout its wintering-range, that is, whether the most northern birds occupy the northern portion of the wintering-area and the more southern nesting birds occupy the southern part of the wintering-area, or if the migrants are scattered at random within this area.

It has not been shown that Massachusetts-nesting Blue Jays, for example, migrate as a whole to more southern regions to pass the winter, though the above recoveries show that some individuals do so, nor have we evidence that the places of such migrating birds are taken by Blue Jays nesting to the north of Massachusetts. It is very probable, however, that a line exists within the nesting range of the northern race south of which no regular migration takes place, though an irregular ranging about of the Blue Jay in winter-time is to be expected.

In addition to the above recoveries, the Technical Bulletin, No. 32, for December, 1927, just issued by the Bureau of Biological Survey, records three other Blue Jay recoveries of birds banded in the middle west. These are tabulated below:

No.	Banded by	Date	Location of Banding Station	Recovery Date	Place of Recovery	Remarks
314325	Burr B. Butler	May 6, 1925	Whitten, Iowa	Jan. 22, 1926	Deeatur, Ark.	Recovered 400 miles approximately south of Whitten.
111511	Frank Buehof	July 8, 1924	Rockport, Mo.	June 13, 1926	Sabetha, Kans.	Recovered approximately 50 miles south of Rockport.
287513	Roland Williams	June 16, 1925	Winnetka, Ill.	Dec. 10, 1925	Sulphur Rock, Ark.	Recovered about 400 miles a little west of south of place of banding.

Of these five migration records, the three western show a movement almost due south, whereas from New England the movement was south-westerly, as would be expected on account of the trend of the Atlantic coast-line. Blue Jay, No. 111511 appears to have nested well south of its summer residence of two years before. - C. L. W.

**A Junco Return-3 and an Indigo Bunting Return-2.**—Mrs. Herbert Salmond, who operates a banding station at Westfield, Massachusetts, reports the capture of a male Junco (*Junco h. hyemalis*) for the third successive winter season—a return-3. This bird, No. 166654, was banded October 31, 1925. The returning dates are April 23, 1926, November 18,

1926, and January 2, 1928. The bird, therefore, was at least three and one half years old on January 2, 1928.

Mrs. Salmond also reports a Return-2 Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*), No. 157491, a bird returning to its nesting-grounds. The bird, a male, was banded May 18, 1925, returning May 20, 1926, and May 15, 1927—a remarkably close accordance of dates. This is the second recorded return of this species to its nesting-ground within our territory, the first being a female reported by Professor Frederick A. Saunders at Kennebunk, Maine, see Vol. 1, No. 3, p. 52 of our *Bulletin*.

**Evidence of Migrating Groups of Tree Sparrows.**—Last season between February 28, 1927, and March 23, 1927, I banded no new Tree Sparrows, but from March 23, to April 15, I banded thirty-two new ones, not one repeating during this period, and none has returned so far this year.

On November 10, 1927, I banded my first fall Tree Sparrow and up to the 21st of November, I banded twenty-one. Not one of these has repeated, though from the 21st on the repeats have been numerous. From these records I conclude that in the spring of 1927 I banded a group moving northward in migration, and that in the fall I banded a group moving southward in migration. Mrs. ANNIE S. WILDER, Westfield, Massachusetts, March, 1928.

**Nesting-Habits of Barn Owls.**—Mrs. Mabel Gillespie in the March, 1928, *Nature Magazine* has an article entitled "Ghosts of a Water Tower," describing the feeding-habits of Barn Owls (*Aluco pratincola*) which raised a family in an old windmill. The locality is National Park, New Jersey, south of Camden on the Delaware River. For several seasons broods of young, ranging in number from five to seven were raised there, and all the young birds were banded, also one adult female. The adults in one instance remained in the tower all winter during the daytime. The young, however, in three recorded instances departed from the parental roof in the fall and were shot, thus furnishing records of the closing events in their life-histories. These three recoveries were as follows: No. 233485, banded June 12, 1925, was recovered August 20, 1925, at Somers Point, New Jersey, fifty miles southeast of the old windmill. A second one, No. 233482, banded May 20, 1925, of the same brood, was killed on November 16, 1925, six months after leaving the nest, at Wilmington, North Carolina, four hundred miles southerly of its birthplace. The third bird, No. 332441, banded November 14, 1925, was shot at Trappe, Maryland, on the eastern shore of Chesapeake Bay, on April 5, 1926, four months after leaving the nest. These three records show an easterly or southerly dispersal and always to the seacoast.

The following additional details of the banding of the Barn Owls have been sent us by Mrs. Gillespie: From 1924 to 1926, twenty-six Barn Owls were banded in the tower, all young birds but one, No. 204477, a female banded May 5, 1924. This bird repeated on November 15, 1924, and again on May 20, 1925, showing that it passed the winter at National Park. The remainder represented four broods, two of seven young each, one brood of six, and one brood of five individuals.

Mrs. Gillespie also writes us of the fall nesting of Barn Owls in the old tower, and of a second instance of this kind, the young leaving the nest, which was built in a tree, about November 20, 1927, and even as late as March 8, 1928, two of the brood were being fed by their parents. THE EDITORS.