

GENERAL NOTES

Red-headed Woodpecker Recovery. A Red-headed Woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*), No. 414398, banded at Lakewood, Ohio, September 7, 1928, is reported through the Bureau of Biological Survey and Miss Annie E. Reid as having been killed by Ray Smith, near Walnut Ridge, Arkansas, about December 10, 1928. Walnut Ridge is about seventy miles west of the Mississippi River and is about six hundred miles southwest of the place of banding. The United States Department of Agriculture Bulletin No. 1268 and Technical Bulletin No. 32 of the same department, listing returns of banded birds from 1920 to 1926, show no migration southerly for this species, so the present recovery is one of the first to be recorded.

Miss Reid writes an interesting letter regarding this recovery showing that Red-headed Woodpeckers spend the winter in large numbers in wooded land around Walnut Ridge.

When writing to the persons reporting recoveries of banded birds, I enclose a photograph showing where they were banded and also request the names of local papers so that a note of the occurrence may be inserted as a new item. This seems to add to the local interest and may result in more information.

From two to four of these woodpeckers, adults and young, are banded at my station yearly, but none has been recorded as a return in a succeeding year. A family of this species nests in the same dead oak tree about one hundred feet east of the traps each year, but there is no proof that it is the same family, though they show familiarity with the traps and some of the adults wear bands, probably mine. There is some interchange of captured birds between this station and that of Rev. John A. Brady. Dr. Brady's station is 2250 feet east of mine, and is also near the lake-shore. He bands one of these birds on an average each year.

There seem to be only two families of this species within half a mile of my banding station, a lack of suitable dead trees for obtaining food and also for nesting sites apparently being the cause. None of the Red-headed Woodpeckers winter near by. When the hicknut crop is plentiful, however, some spend the entire winter in northern Ohio. Banding in the future, of course, will determine whether or not the northern Ohio wintering birds are visitors from farther north. E. C. HOFFMAN, 1041 Forest Cliffe Drive, Lakewood, Ohio.

A Red-headed Woodpecker Winters in New Hampshire. At my banding station in Antrim, New Hampshire, a single Red-headed Woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*), a bird-of-the-year, was banded on November 25, 1928. On this date by looking closely it was possible to note a few red feathers on its head. By January 30, 1929, about two-thirds of his head had become red, the color coming in on the nape and upper breast and spreading gradually and slowly upward. On the 5th of February a half-inch band of juvenal plumage was still present, encircling the bill. For about two weeks following February 5th the bird did not visit my station, but was reported at a feeding station a mile distant, which it visited for about two weeks. Although I did not see it, inquiry showed that the bird had not assumed adult plumage by February 19th.

Up to the first week of February the bird came to the station often, eating suet and mixed grain and an occasional sunflower seed, which it

opened in the manner of White-breasted Nuthatches. It dug a good many holes in an old pear tree near the house, in which it tucked away grain and suet, which later a Hairy Woodpecker ate. It is interesting to note that the habit of storing food in holes which it excavates is one much practiced by the California Woodpecker, a member of this genus. This Western species, as is well known, stores immense numbers of acorns in holes which the birds dig in the bark or wood, forming food-supplies often termed "cupboards." RACHEL E. CATCHFY, Antrim, New Hampshire.

Notes on Tempting the Birds' Appetites. As my trapping experience grows, I am more impressed by the necessity of varying the menus at the station to meet the seasonal variations in the natural food-supply and the individual variations of taste within the species.

On the whole, the seed-eaters will stand for a rather monotonous diet. Cardinals will come for sunflower or hemp seed almost the year round, while Song Sparrows and White-throats seem never to tire of Baby Chick Feed mixed with hemp. Jays, on the contrary, are always looking for variety, and who can follow the caprices of a Catbird or a Thrasher?

To show the value of out-of-season food as bait, in spring, when wild fruit is not to be had at all, an apple with the top cut out to expose the pulp is a magnet to fruit-eaters. Catbirds come in a steady stream all day, digging so energetically and skilfully that they leave nothing except the skin standing up around the bare core. Apples are also beloved by Robins and Thrushes, and the few Orioles I have banded have been baited with apples.

With the coming of insects and wild berries, apples lose their appeal and the birds are likely to drift away more or less until the ceaseless demands of their young bring them back to the station. At this time I find food that is soft and moist is most attractive to Catbirds, Thrashers, Jays, and even Song Sparrows. The Sparrows do not fancy it for themselves, though they pick it up gingerly to carry to the young, but the other adults eat it greedily themselves before taking great dripping mouthfuls to the nest. A small shallow pan made for baby chicks, if kept full of bread and milk, makes a lively station, as parent birds fight for possession. Milk alone is much relished by Catbirds, and it is amusing to see how they tiddle the unaccustomed drink. With the end of the nesting-season, the popularity of the station declines, unless the bander can find fresh attractions, and even then it is difficult to trap any except casual immature birds.

Where it is possible to distinguish individual birds, it is interesting to see that they vary somewhat in their tastes, as when one of a pair of Chickadees devotes himself to sunflower seeds, while the other prefers nut-crumbs or grated cheese.

One of my surprises has been the discovery that North Carolina birds utterly scorn suet in the coldest weather.

Cornbread is a very valuable bait because it does not harden like wheat-bread, and the liberal use of shortening makes it attractive even to insect-eaters.

Jays are more easily trapped during the nesting-season than at any other time in this locality. They will take great risks to secure food for the young, but afterwards I find them very wary. In fact, when the winters are open, though cold, the breeding-season is better for trapping, since the great abundance of birds creates a demand for food, while in winter the