

GENERAL NOTES

An Interesting Cedar Waxwing Return.—Return records for banded Cedar Waxwings have not yet become numerous. The following data are accordingly of unusual interest:

On August 8, 1928, Dr. Alfred O. Gross attached band No. 426470 to a fledgling *Bombycilla cedrorum*, at the Biological Station at Douglas Lake, near Cheboygan, Michigan. This bird (with its two nest mates, which also were banded) was the subject of an intensive life-history study by Dr. Gross, through whose courtesy the photograph on the cover of this number of the *Bulletin* is reproduced. The band on one of the young birds shows clearly.

On December 11, 1928, Mr. Berry Farley, of Haleyville, Alabama, wrote the Biological Survey that he had the band with the above number, which he had taken from a "rice bird." The bird was released unharmed after the band was removed. Waxwings are notorious wanderers, but *cedrorum* may make migratory flights that are more regular than has been supposed. Certainly this single record would indicate a definite movement from summer to winter quarters, and the bird apparently "jumped over" the great numbers of these birds that spend the winter months much farther north.—FREDERICK C. LINCOLN, Biological Survey, Washington, D. C.

An Interesting Black Duck Return.—Bird-banding coöperators and other persons who are familiar with the return records that have been listed in the two bulletins of the United States Department of Agriculture on this subject may have noticed that while Black Ducks have been banded in fairly large numbers, almost all of the return records have come from points south of the banding stations. This is, of course, as would be expected, as the open season for shooting occurs entirely while these birds are on their southward migration.

For this reason return records of banded ducks that were taken in the northern part of their breeding-range are of particular value. In this class is one recently reported from Mr. Thomas Thoms, of Fox Harbour, near Battle Harbour, Labrador, who on May 24, 1929, killed a black duck that carried Biological Survey band No. A625514. This bird was one of several banded on February 15, 1929, at Penikese Island, Massachusetts, by the warden in charge, Mr. H. S. Turner. A direct line drawn between these two points indicates an air-line flight of about eleven hundred miles, for this bird, which was in the northern part of the breeding-range of this species.—FREDERICK C. LINCOLN, Biological Survey, Washington, D. C.

Results of Banding Chimney Swifts at George School, Bucks County, Pennsylvania.—The Editor has asked me to write up the account of Chimney Swift No. B1275 that I banded at George School, Bucks County, Pennsylvania, in the spring of 1927. As this account is only one of several interesting results of my banding work that spring, I think it is perhaps best to give more complete details.

On the east end of the main building of the school there is a large chimney that is never used except by the Swifts. Every spring and fall large flocks stop here over night during migration. In the spring of 1927 I got permission to band them, so I sent for what I thought would be a good supply of bands. The next thing to do was to design some kind of a trap. We used just about the most simple contraption it was possible to make, yet it worked very well. It consisted of a cover for the chimney with a

slide in it and a cheese-cloth net to cover the opening. At night, after all the Swifts were in, we put the cover over the chimney. In the morning we put the net over and drew the slide, letting five or ten Swifts into the net at a time. After banding them, the process was repeated. Sometimes the Swifts were reluctant to come out, in which case one of us went down the chimney on a rope and chased them up.

The migration had been going on for some time before we could try our plan. So on May 6th we made a start by banding about two hundred birds, banding on four different days, ending on May 28th with seven hundred and seventy. We had much underestimated the number of birds, so were very much handicapped by a shortage of bands. We banded, however, a total of 1465 Chimney Swifts during this period.

No flock ever stayed more than one night in the chimney. We trapped only five birds a second time. One of these was banded on the evening of the 5th as we were fixing the trap, and was caught again the next morning. Two were banded on the 6th and were caught again on the 28th. The other two were caught on the 20th and recaptured on the 28th.

Since the spring of 1927 I have learned of the following Chimney Swift recoveries:

No.	Date Banded	Where Recovered	By Whom Recovered	Date Recovered
512694	May 6, 1927	Boydton, Virginia	W. S. Handly	Mar. 10, 1928
B1045	May 28, 1927	Coronado Beach, Fla.	R. J. Longstreet	May 15, 1929
B1275	May 28, 1927	E. Bridgewater, Mass.	R. Williams	June 15, 1929
B1342	May 28, 1927	Rocky Hill, N. J.	Mrs. A. H. Merritt	May 8, 1929
B1357	May 28, 1927	Newtown, Pa.	Mrs. C. C. Petters	Aug. 2, 1927
B1798	May 28, 1927	East Andover, Me.	R. J. Swain	May 31, 1928

No. B1357 was found dead at Newtown, which is only one mile from George School. Nos. 512694 and B1275 were released after the numbers were read, although the latter had an injured foot. I do not know whether the others were injured or not.

We also made one Swift recovery on May 28, 1927, bird No. 196927, banded at Grady Hotel, Cairo, Georgia, by H. L. Stoddard on October 8, 1926.

As this was my senior year at George School, I was not able to carry on the work during 1928 as I should have liked.—JOHN BARTRAM.¹

Note by Editor.—These seven recoveries, barring the one at Coronado Beach, Florida, were made at localities from fifteen to seventy miles from tidewater on the east or southeast. Mr. Bartram's banding station is also approximately fifty miles from the Atlantic and some ten miles from the Delaware River at Trenton. His banding of Chimney Swifts is unique in that all his birds were migrating at the time of banding. It is of course possible that after a night in the chimney many of the birds may have dispersed to near-by places to nest, but the capture of a banded bird in Maine on May 31st, even though taken the following year, makes it highly probable that many of his banded birds were well south of their breeding-grounds at the time of banding.

Some of the recoveries were apparently made while the birds were in migration northward, and in other cases while they were moving south. No. 512694, banded May 6th, was pretty surely moving north when recovered at Boydton, Virginia, on March 10, 1928.

Mr. H. L. Stoddard's bird, banded October 8, 1926, at Cairo, Georgia, was doubtless moving toward its winter quarters at the time. This bird was moving south at a distance of one hundred seventy-one miles from the Atlantic Coast, and it was recovered nearly three years later in migration northward and some seventy miles from the coast.

As far as Mr. Bartram's records go, they show that many birds of this species, while migrating to and from their nesting-grounds, follow the Atlantic Coast, keeping well inland.—C. L. W.

¹An eighth recovery is just reported by the Biological Survey, that of No. B1265, Banded May 26, 1927, which was trapped by W. R. Green at Chattanooga, Tennessee, September 21, 1929.