

### RECENT LITERATURE

**My Tropical Air Castle.** By Frank M. Chapman. Published by D. Appleton and Company, New York and London.

A typical February day in bleak New England! I sit indoors by my open fire, watching the Chickadees and Goldfinches on my windowshelf, my greatest thrill the brief visit of a Myrtle Warbler to the bayberry spray in the fast-fading Christmas tree, then turn to the pages of this delightful book and contrast Dr. Chapman's day on Barro Colorado with my own, as he reclines in his easy chair in the shade of his little cabin and notes the activities of the Caciques and Manakins, the Oropendolas and Toucans, the Howling Monkeys and Coatimundis, in the branches of the great tropical trees, or paddles his slender cayuca in the haunts of Jacanas and Gallinules, Tapirs and Crocodiles, among the lagoons and inlets of Gatun Lake. It is a book which stirs the wanderlust in our veins and wakens all our latent desires to go a-birding in distant lands. It appeals to the nature-lover and the scientist alike. Its subtitle might well be "Vacation Days in a Laboratory," for Barro Colorado presents the unusual combination of an unspoiled tropical forest where all wild life is protected and undisturbed, with living conditions which include "all the comforts of home," ample scientific equipment, and congenial companionship. Not least among our pleasures in the perusal of this volume is reading between the lines, as the well-known scientist, a little tired perhaps of collecting and studying specimens and classifying dead skins, turns to a leisurely study of the book which Dame Nature has opened wide before him in this ideal spot.

This is not the place for a detailed discussion of the book, but a few of the chapter-titles may serve as a whet to one's appetite and a lure to the reading of the volume. The author's catholic taste in subject matter may be shown by such headings as "Casa Mia," "Two Widows of the Sandbox Tree," "Does the Turkey Buzzard follow his Nose?" "Cayuca Ways," "Who treads our Trails?" and "Presenting the Coati." The chapter on "The Oropendolas of Laboratory Hill" is the result of prolonged and careful study of these interesting colony-nesting birds, written with strict observance of scientific considerations, but in a manner that makes delightful reading for any one with a love of nature or of travel; while the story of Claudia, the captive baby Howling Monkey, shows a sympathetic treatment which may surprise those who know the author only from his scientific side. The half-tone illustrations and the line drawings by Mr. Jacques add much to the volume, and, all in all, it is a book which will be an addition to any library.—J. B. M.

---

**The Natural History of the Double-crested Cormorant.** By Harrison F. Lewis. Published under the auspices of the Province of Quebec Society for the Protection of Birds, Ottawa, Canada.

This little book, written by Dr. Lewis as his thesis for the Graduate School of Cornell University, contains in compact and readable form a vast amount of information about this interesting bird and is an example which might well be followed by others in the preparation of monographs on our birds. It contains not only a résumé of the literature on the subject, but much new material gathered personally by Dr. Lewis in the field and in the laboratory. The work contains numerous half-tones from photographs and two maps, one showing the breeding and winter ranges of the species and the other showing returns of banded individuals. This map records recoveries of sixty birds, thirty-five of which were banded in Saskatchewan by Reuben and Bert Lloyd, and two in Manitoba by J. A. Munro. These Western birds were all recovered within the Mississippi Valley, ranging from Ohio

to western Florida and to Texas. The Eastern birds were all banded in the lower St. Lawrence, most of them by Dr. Lewis in Canadian Labrador, and the recoveries are all from points on the Atlantic seaboard, from Newfoundland to Florida. There is no overlapping of the returns from the two different breeding-localities, and the map might represent the travels of two different species instead of members of the same race of birds. It is a further demonstration of the results which may be obtained from the banding of a considerable number of birds of a given species.—J. B. M.

**Birds of Massachusetts and Other New England States, Vol. III, 1929.** By Edward Howe Forbush.—The appearance of this long-awaited volume completes the series of this splendid State publication.

Upon the death of its author a year ago, the work of editing the volume fell upon the shoulders of Mr. Forbush's successor to the position of Director of the Division of Ornithology, Massachusetts Department of Agriculture, Dr. John B. May, who, in addition to his excellent editorial work, contributes a biographical sketch of Mr. Forbush, the texts on the Rough-winged Swallow, the Lark Bunting, and the Slate-colored Junco, and the chapter on "Recent Additions to the Avifauna of New England," treating of four species. These additional species were not known to have occurred in New England when the material for the first two volumes was written, or were discovered too late to be inserted in their appropriate places. They are the Lapwing, Lewis's Woodpecker, and Harris's and Golden-crowned Sparrows.

Mr. Maurice Broun contributes the accounts of Lawrence's Warbler, Brewster's Warbler, Maryland Yellow-throat, Canada Warbler, Redstart, and Hermit Thrush.

The volume contains thirty-one colored plates of one hundred and twenty-five species of birds. Of the birds included, Allan Brooks painted one hundred and six and Louis Agassiz Fuertes painted nineteen. The last birds painted by Fuertes for this volume were the White-throated and White-crowned Sparrows, Plate No. 70, fine examples of the work of this master painter of birds.

The bird paintings by Allan Brooks are also excellent, but a few appear less satisfactory owing to unusual poses or because the colors sometimes appear too intense or their definitions too sharp.

A large number of people interested in birds have eagerly awaited the completion of this work. Its usefulness will be very great for years to come, both to students of birds and as an instrument for increasing interest in birds throughout the country. This increased interest can be aroused by the State's separately binding the colored plates in the three volumes and selling them directly and through the Audubon Societies at a price just sufficient to cover the cost and postage.—C. L. W.

**Der Vogelzug, I, No. 1, January, 1930, pp. 1-64, 4 figs. (maps).**—This magazine is to be the official organ of the ornithological stations (observatories) of Helgoland and Rossitten, Germany, and to be otherwise open to contributions on bird migration, and on the various problems in which bird-banding is involved.

The initial article by Rudolf Drost, eleventh report of the bird observatory of the biological station of Helgoland (1926-1928), covers fifteen pages. From it we learn that the considerable space required for detailed report on returns of banded birds has led to the scheme of combining these by species, or sometimes groups of species, for better discussion and greater reference value, and has resulted in launching this new periodical. The physical

development of the station over the years concerned is given in detail—its observation, trapping, and laboratory facilities, collections and library, correlations with outside ornithological activity described. Attempts to organize a coöperative study of migration over wide areas are under way, particularly an international study of that crossing the North Sea. This is a National central office for bird-banding. Several pages of statistics show the number of birds banded on Helgoland, which had risen to over five thousand annually in 1927 and 1928, and totalled 22,342 from 1909 to 1928 inclusive. The numbers banded by the principal coöperators in different parts of Germany are also listed: over 1000, 4 persons; 500 to 1000, 7 persons; and so forth.

Two principal articles in this number concern the migration of the European Coot (*Fulica atra*) according to banding returns, by E. Schüz, and the wanderings of the Helgoland race of the Common Murre (*Uria aalge helgolandica*), by Rudolf Drost. The Coot in Britain is a resident or at most a local migrant, but eastward in the same latitude and to the north it seems to have the migratory instinct strongly developed in many cases. The longest course so far recorded by an individual, from Sweden to Spain, is about fifteen hundred miles. In most cases the Coot is probably a winter migrant; that is, it retreats before cold weather; but it also may cover a wide distance in spontaneous southward migration prior to the advent of cold weather. It may travel more quickly than one would suppose for so weak a flier, 164 miles a day; and it apparently crosses mountain-ranges in migration. A winter concentration (Traunsee near Gmunden) where banding was done, is described. Recoveries of birds here banded were obtained (some evidently breeding) in scattered localities at various distances more or less northeasterly. Nine years and one month is the longest life-span so far obtained for this species. The data for this admirable study comprise the more important banding-records for this species, including those already published which have been brought together from the scattered literature. The picture presented of the migration of the European Coot is quite comparable to what might be inferred from observation as to that of the American species, for which corroborative banding data are as yet unavailable.

Young Murres from the Helgoland colony for the most part migrate northward in fall to Scandinavian coasts; in winter they scatter southward to the English Channel, the west coast of France, and the Bay of Biscay. Most of the recaptures of adults at all seasons are from home waters, indicating that these are less wide-ranging than the young. So far there are few data on the return to Helgoland in the breeding-season—two adults only, as compared with one adult and two young of the preceding year in foreign waters at that period. Just this aspect of the matter is worth further investigation for its bearing on the problem of colonial races of sea-birds.

Other articles include a short report on coöperative observation by a 'network' of observers scattered along the coast near Rossitten (Schüz) and a summary of what has been observed of migration over the North Sea at Helgoland and adjacent coastal stations (Drost and Schüldmacher). The general direction in fall, day and night, is here southwest, at times across the sea and at times along the coast, more or less dependent on weather conditions and the configuration of the coast. Then there is a review of the present bird-banding situation in Russia (H. Grote).

Under "Short Contributions" we have an appeal for an international network of stations for observing bird-migration on all coasts of the North Sea (Drost;) concerning the spring migration, 1929, at Rossitten (Schüz); unusual visitants on Helgoland in the spring of 1929 (Drost); A banded *Ardea p. purpurea* taken in Hessen-Nassau (Salzmann); mortality of

migrants along the coast (Robien); recovery of a German Red-backed Shrike in Egypt (Drost).

Under "Banding-technique" there is description of a convenient retainer for trapped birds; and discussion of placing the band on right or left leg, with the suggestion that all birds be banded on the right leg in even years (1930-1932), on the left in odd years (1931-1933). While, in the opinion of the reviewer, it is obviously impossible to place reliance on any system of right and left banding, with the numerous coöperators involved, at the same time and in particular cases such may often add value to ensuing sight observations. The plan followed by some of his associates of banding fledglings on one and adults on the other leg, however, seems the most likely to be of value in general. It proved helpful in a recent study of the Brewster's Warbler problem by members of the Linnæan Society of New York. On the other hand, the value of the reviewer's sight observations on a small group of banded adult House Sparrows a few years ago was enhanced by the fact that these had been banded indiscriminately, males and females, rights and lefts, thus dividing them for observation purposes into four lots where otherwise there would have been two. After the nesting-season he has seen young banded Terns at his locality on the south shore of Long Island, presumably from colonies to the eastward. Were the Massachusetts colonies banded one way and the New York colonies the other in a given year, the interest in such observations would be doubled. In short, for observation purposes he would favor one standard leg, to be varied as it might help some given problem.

*Der Vogelzug* contains a rather comprehensive review of the literature and it may be helpful to American workers to run through the titles of the papers discussed, where these are not in English, as follows: *Lucanus, Fr. v.*, 1929, The Riddle of Migration: Its Solution in Experimental Ways by Aviation and Bird-Banding, 286 pages, 4 figs., 1 pl. *Harnisch, Erich*, 1929, Bird-Migration in the Light of Modern Investigation, 131 pages, 15 plates, text-figs. Leipzig. *Schüz, E.*, 1929, Bird-Migration, Aus der Heimat, Naturwiss. Monatsschr., XLII, No. 3, pp. 65-87, 16 figs. A comprehensive and clear review of our present knowledge of bird-migration. *Schenk, Jakob*, 1929, Value and Employment of Migration Dates in the Study of Migration, Verhandl. VI, Intern. Orn. Congress, Copenhagen, 1926, pp. 270-288. *Drost, Rudolf*, 1929, Concerning Bird Wanderings in the Winter Months, with a discussion under the heading "Bird-Migration and Weather," Verhandl. VI, Int. Orn. Congress, Copenhagen, 1926, pp. 62-79. Concludes that not so much the wind or wind-direction as such but "temperature transported by wind" is an important factor. *Dupond, Ch.*, 1929, Bird-Banding in Belgium, 1928, *Le Gerfaut, Rev. belge d'Ornith.*, XIX, No. 2, pp. 43-52. Many recoveries of birds banded in Belgium, mostly in a southwesterly direction from the banding station. A *Carduelis spinus* female banded at Oordegem, April 3d, was caught by a cat on July 30th at Trysil, about 112 miles north of Oslo, Norway. *Banded Birds*, 1929. *Le Gerfaut, Rev. belge d'Ornith.*, XIX, No. 2, pp. 11-13. Recoveries from numerous Black-headed Gulls (*Larus ridibundus*) banded in Holland show that they followed the coast southward in migration, the most southerly record being near Cadiz, Spain. *Lemming Mortensen, I.*, 1929. On Banded Storks (*Ciconia alba*), *Dansk Orn. For. Tidsskr.*, XXII, No. 4, pp. 126-132. Recovery of Storks banded in Denmark in various European countries, Asia Minor, and South Africa. *Skovgaard, P.*, 1929, *Danske Fugle*, X, No. 1, pp. 189-190. Bird-banding report of the Danish central office; in 1926 there were 9386 birds banded; in 1927, 15,409. *Skovgaard, P.*, 1929., Banded *Sterna cantiaca [sandvicensis]*, *Danske Fugle*, X, No. 1, pp. 197-199, 1 map. Since 1919 there have been 2207 of these Terns banded, with 24 recoveries on the west coasts of Europe and Africa south

to the Gold Coast. *Skovgaard, P.*, 1929, *Danske Fugle*, X, No. 1, pp. 200-202, 1 map. Report on a few interesting recoveries of birds banded in Denmark, for instance the Red-backed Shrike from the delta of the Nile. *Skovgaard, P.*, 1929, Banded *Sterna anglica* [*Gelochelidon nilotica*], *Danske Fugle*, X, No. 1, pp. 215-216, 1 map. From 685 of these Terns banded since 1918, 11 recoveries. Unlike *S. cantiaea* this species migrates to a considerable extent over the land, probably through central Europe to the Mediterranean. Recoveries of an individual on the west coast of Africa in November and a young bird in September at Barbados, W. I. *Skovgaard, P.*, 1929, Crossbill-Invasions 1927, *Danske Fugle*, X, No. 1, 1929, pp. 239-255. Compilation of reports of the great European invasion of the Crossbill in 1927. *Ordt, G. J. Van*, and *Bol, C. J. A. C.*, 1929, Concerning the Orientation Problem in Birds. Removal of sex glands in the Carrier Pigeon, *Biol. Zentralbl.*, XLIX, No. 3. pp. 173-186. Homing ability of birds operated upon not impaired. *Wergold, H.*, 1926. Measurements, weights, and migration, correlated with age and sex in migratory birds of Helgoland, *Wiss. Meer, N.F. Abt. Helgoland*, XV, Festschr. f. Fr. Heinicke, Abh. No. 17, pp. 1-73. *Drost, Rudolf*, 1929, European Banding-Centers, *Orn. Monatber.*, XXXVI, pp. 161-172. Statistical and tabular presentation of the status of bird-banding in Europe. *Schütz, E.*, 1929. Spring Migration of *Colymbus arcticus* in the Rossitten Region, *Mitt. Ver. sächs. Ornith.*, II, No. 6, pp. 289-294. A large migration of this species in late May, 1929, with general northwesterly direction, occasions request for coöperative observations on its migration. *Sunkel, W.*, 1929, Trapping birds for Science and aviculture, pt. 3, pp. 193-351, A. Troschütz, Hannover. *Haverschmidt, Fr.*, 1929, *Ardea*, XVIII,  $\frac{1}{2}$ , pp. 24-37. Observations particularly of water and wading birds with some notes bearing on migration. *Bouwma, J. P.*, *Koch, J. C., Dr.*, and *Malssen, J. F. M. Van*, 1929, *Ardea*, XVIII,  $\frac{1}{2}$ , pp. 38-57. Report of a Dutch central station for bird-banding, remarks on capture, directions of migration, etc. *Brower, G. A.* and *Haverschmidt, Fr.*, 1929, The severe winter of 1928-1929, *Ardea*, XVIII,  $\frac{1}{2}$ , pp. 61-69. Many migration dates, and statements of direction of movement. *Moltoni, E.*, *Riv. Sci. Nat. "Natura"*, XIX, pp. 179-182, 2 figs. On the beginning of bird-banding in Italy. *Moltoni, E.*, 1929, *Riv. Sci. Nat. "Natura"*, XX, pp. 69-72. Recovery in Italy of birds banded in more northerly European countries. *Levenskjöld, H. L.*, 1929, *Norsk Orn. Tidsk.*, X (3 ser.), pp. 115-183. Observations covering fifty-nine years, with many references to migration, and a migration table for fifty-four species. *Schaaning, H. Tho. L.*, 1929, Banded Birds VII, *Norsk Orn. Tidskr.*, X (3 ser.) pp. 202. Recoveries of banded birds. *Svendsen, G.*, 1929, *Norsk Orn. Tidskr.*, X (3 ser.), pp. 206. Comparison of arrival dates in 1928 and 1929. *Hakenstad, P.*, 1929, *Norsk Orn. Tidskr.*, X (3 ser.), p. 211. Arrival dates in the spring of 1929. *Lönnerberg, E.*, 1929, *Fauna och Flora*, pp. 117-124. Fifteenth contribution of banding-results from the National Museum in Stockholm. *Lönnerberg, E.*, 1929 *Svensk. Vetensk. Skrift Nat.*, No. 11, pp. 1-21, 6 maps. Migration of *Corvus cornix*, *Sturnus vulgaris*, *Turdus pilaris*, *T. philomelos*, *T. musicus*, *T. merula*, and *Columba palumbus*, based on banding results of the National Natural History Museum at Stockholm. All these species have a more or less southwesterly migration direction, in single cases more southerly. *Jägerskiöld, L. A.*, 1929, Report of the biological society of Göteborg, on banding results, pp. 26-83, 2 figs., 33 maps. Statistical tables. Maps showing migration of a number of species, in a general southwesterly direction in almost all cases, except the Rough-legged Hawk, which travelled south and southeast, and the Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*) which took a southerly direction. *Schifferli, A.*, 1929. Other interesting recoveries from the Swiss ornithological observatory at Sempach, *Der Orn.*

*Beobachter*, XXVI, No. 9, p. 172. *Schifferli*, A., 1929, Fifth report from the Swiss ornithological observatory at Sempach (1928), *Der Orn. Beobachter*, XXVII, No. 1, pp. 2-13. Contains report of banding activities and numerous interesting recoveries. The following sentences are quoted. "It is a misinterpretation of bird-psychology when marking is neglected due to apprehensiveness." "Whoever bands can affirm how bird-protection is furthered by banding." *Bretscher*, K., 1929, New contributions concerning migration in central Europe, *Quarterly of the Nat. Ges. Zürich*, LX XIV, p. 1-49. An attempt in working over recorded observations by mathematical computation to recognize migration-routes. There are tables of migration-dates, etc., for various species. The general conclusion that there are definite migration-routes, in many cases along river valleys, seems to the reviewer (Drost) out of line with the results of recent (particularly bird-banding) investigations. *Schenk*, J., 1929, *Verh. X Internat. Zool. Congr.* 1927, Budapest, Sect. VIII, pp. 1386-1401. Study of combined records of European banding-centers. Statistics as to the distance of point of recovery in the breeding-season from birthplace, give 16 [should be 10?] km. or less., 80 per cent; 10 to 50 km., (approx. 6 to 31 miles) 10 per cent; 50 to 100 km. 3.5 per cent; over 100 km., 6.5 per cent. *Schenk*, J., 1929, Bird-banding in Hungary in the Years 1926-1927, XII report with 2 figs., *Aquila*, XXXIV-XXXV, pp. 53-85. Banding-statistics; studies of the return of breeding birds and young, banded, to the same breeding-area; and banding-data bearing on migration in various species. Adults captured on the nest and banded, and looked for in later years. Such return proved for adult Kentish Plover, Lapwing, and Blacktailed Godwit, and young Lapwing, Black-tailed Godwit, Ibis, and Herons. The oldest banded bird of Hungary is a sixteen-year-old *Ardea purpurea*. *Schenk*, J. 1929, The Appearance of the Rosy Starling (*Pastor roseus*) in Hungary in the Years 1924-1926, *Aquila*, XXXIV-XXXV, p. 114-121, 4 pl., 2 fig. Faunistic and ecological data. Plates figure breeding-places and nests; figures show breeding-stations in grasshopper areas in Hungary, and points of recovery of banded birds (southeast to India). *Warga*, K., 1929, Bohemian Waxwing invasion in the years 1923-24, 1925-26, and 1927-28, and a review of previous invasions. *Aquila*, XXXIV-XXXV, pp. 155-183. *Warga*, K., 1929, Migration dates from Hungary, X, Report for 1927, *Aquila*, XXXIV-XXXV, pp. 257-305. *Vasvari*, N., 1929, Winter quarters of *Branta ruficollis* from a faunal point of view, *Aquila*, XXXIV-XXXV, pp. 228-241. The migration of this goose is correlated with that of *Anser albifrons*, and it is difficult to assign to it definite winter quarters. Some fifty other foreign titles are merely listed.—J. T. N.

**The Canadian Field-Naturalist.** Volume XLIII, 1929. This periodical, published by the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club, contains, in addition to occasional notes on bird-banding, the official Canadian record of bird-banding returns. Its nine issues each year contain many articles of interest to the zoologist, the botanist, and the geologist. In the January number of the present volume is an article by Theed Pearse on a colony of Glaucous-winged Gulls in the Gulf of Georgia, British Columbia. Some four hundred young birds were banded, with only eleven recoveries in a period of six and a half years. The farthest recovery was from Seattle, Washington, of a bird banded two years previously. The writer concludes, "In the previous article (*Canadian Field-Naturalist*, October, 1923) it was suggested that these Glaucous Wings nesting around here do not migrate much and certainly the more recent records bear this out."

In the February issue W. Philip Gerald suggests the use of a wide mouthed glass preserve jar as a gathering-cage to prevent injuries to ex-

cited captive birds. Manley Miner reports in the May issue that a pair of Jack Miner's banded Canada Geese, with a family of three young, spent some time in the protection of another privately maintained sanctuary about one hundred and fifty miles east of Mr. Miner's banding station at Kingsville, Ontario.

The McCabes of Barkerville, B. C., record in the November issue, the constancy during two seasons of a pair of Red-breasted Sapsuckers. These birds, banded at their nest in June, 1927, reappeared on April 15, 1928, and soon began another nest. They were recognized by their "right and left" banding, and later the female was taken, though the male was not. We have few instances on record of the continued mating of wild birds.

We have space to record but a few of the recoveries listed under the official Canadian returns. A Black Duck banded at Lake Scugog, Ont., was killed in Maryland when at least seven years old, while a Crow banded as a nestling in Saskatchewan was shot five years later only a mile and a half from the place of banding. Other interesting recoveries are a Bronzed Grackle banded near Ottawa, recovered in North Carolina; a Song Sparrow banded in Massachusetts, taken in Nova Scotia; a Blue Jay from Rhinebeck, N. Y., taken in New Brunswick; Herring Gull, Wisconsin to New Brunswick; Robins banded in Saskatchewan and taken in Louisiana and Georgia; Caspian Tern, Quebec to North Carolina; Arctic Tern, Labrador to France; Common Tern, Massachusetts to Ontario; Black-crowned Night Heron, Saskatchewan to Georgia; and many duck and gull recoveries. A great deal of space is wasted, however, in the opinion of the reviewer, in recording as "returns" young birds picked up dead near the place of banding which had evidently never left their natal ground, and many other birds found at the place of banding within a few days of banding. These records can only be of interest to the bander himself or to a possible student of bird mortality, and the latter could obtain better results by a questionnaire. An extreme case is that of a Robin banded in April which repeated twice at five-day intervals and two weeks later "*was presumably killed* by a cat at the same station. *Only the feathers were left* and as this bird was seen no more *it is thought* that No. 269,920 was the bird which the cat caught" (italics ours). The February issue records seventeen Great Black-backed Gulls, each banded as a juvenile in July, and "found dead on the Island on which it was banded—in October. The bird had apparently died a long time before its body was found."—J. B. M.

---

## CORRESPONDENCE

### BIRD-BANDING AND TERMINOLOGY

Editor of *Bird-Banding*:

It seems that the discussion of the use of terms such as "repeats" or "returns" in bird-banding promises only to increase any slight confusion there may be, or rather to cause confusion where none had before existed. The real confusion is not in the use of words, but in the failure to recognize two entirely different purposes and methods in banding; to recognize these two quite different purposes will help clarify the discussion of the use of words.

Prior to 1920, banding was carried on by very few operators, in a small way, and chiefly as a study of whether birds do come back to home and nest. As the importance of these records became recognized, banding was taken up by the United States Biological Survey, and bands have since been issued by the Survey to operators licensed by Federal permit, and all records of the bands placed upon birds are filed with the Survey.