

## TO MEMBERS OF THE NORTHEASTERN BIRD-BANDING ASSOCIATION:

The annual meeting of the Northeastern Bird-Banding Association will be held next January, the date to be announced, in connection with that of The Federation of the Bird Clubs of New England, Inc.

Last year a very successful all day session was held, the papers in the morning being given by members of our Association on various phases of bird-banding based on their own experiences.

If enough papers be available to make the morning session worth while arrangements will be made to conduct the meeting along the lines of last year.

Please send word, at your earliest convenience, to the Secretary if you are planning to offer a paper. The title and time required for its delivery may be supplied later.

October, 1930.

CHARLES B. FLOYD, *Secretary.*

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RECENT LITERATURE**Der Vogelzug, Vol. I, no. 3, July, 1930.**

This number begins with a report by E. Schüz on the bird observatory at Rossitten for the fiscal year 1929-1930. Among the outstanding accomplishments of the year were the completion of the building at Rossitten and the starting of a working library there. The winter work of the station was largely devoted to plans for recording and making more easily available the vast quantities of data constantly pouring in on the following topics: (1) migrations of individual species in relation to each other, (2) studies of the same species at different stages of the migration season, (3) comparisons of data of different years with relation to single species. In this connection the great projected Atlas of Bird Migration in Europe has been undertaken by Weigold and Schüz, thereby joining the forces of the two great German stations (Helgoland and Rossitten) in this work. The other manifold activities of the station are indicated by the large number of papers, based wholly or in part on Rossitten records and material, published during the past year.

Drost, writing from Helgoland, discusses the migrations of the Ring Ouzel (*Turdus torquatus*). Scandinavian birds banded on migration at Helgoland, were found wintering in various parts of France; one English bird was taken in Algiers.

In another paper Drost discusses the time of day at which migrants depart, and its correlation with light. He produces evidence in support of his contention that individual species are fairly constant in this regard. This is a distinct refinement of the old notion that there are only two groups of migrants—diurnal and nocturnal.

Heyder writes on the mutual relations of migrating birds and notes that in mixed flocks containing several species the flock as a whole derives some appreciable benefit from the total of the differences of the reactions to experience and the rapidity of danger-perception, etc., of its individual component members. Thus, species slow to recognize one particular form of danger are protected by their association with others quick to sense this type of trouble, others naturally more silent are guided somewhat at night by the noises produced by their more loquacious companions.

Rüppell contributes some observations on the migrations of the Black-throated Diver on the bay near Rossitten, especially with regard to the

general agreement of the direction of the prevailing wind and of the line of flight. He also has a short paper on the plan of dispersal of crow-traps in this area, taking advantage of local environmental factors in the placing of the traps. Schildmacher presents some observations on a number of migrants on Sylt Island, where he went in order to check and extend some simultaneous observations being made at Rossitten.

Among the short notes are two of particular interest. One has to do with the establishment of a new banding station in southeastern Europe. This has been started by the Royal Bulgarian Museum at Sofia. The other has to do with a remarkable return record of a banded bird. A Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis*, banded in Holland on July 9, 1928, was shot on a lake near St. Paul, Minnesota, early in 1930. Besides being a case of a transoceanic flight it is also the first record for the southern European cormorant in North America.—H. F.

**British Birds.** Volume XXII, June, 1929, to May, 1930. This publication for twenty-one years has stood sponsor for the "British Birds' Marking Scheme" and in the issue for March, 1930 (pp. 258-265), H. F. Witherby celebrates the coming of age of the Scheme with a review of progress. Over a quarter of a million birds have been "ringed" since the inauguration of the plan in 1909 (258,791 birds). In 1929 the "catch" was 25,243 birds. Dr. H. J. Moon led the "ringers" in 1929 with a total of 3281 birds of 52 species. Of the 107 species ringed since 1909, six species have passed the 10,000 mark, the Song Thrush leading in popularity with 31,523 birds ringed, the Blackbird being second with 21,999 birds. It is interesting to note here that of these two species of song and insectivorous birds, recoveries in the case of the Song Thrush totalled only 1.5 per cent and in that of the Blackbird only 2.5 per cent. The largest percentages of recoveries were with the Merlin, 124 birds ringed, 21.8 per cent recoveries; Mallard, 2990 ringed, 19.5 per cent recoveries; Cormorant, 821 ringed, 18.4 per cent recoveries; Sparrowhawk, 245 ringed, 16.5 per cent recoveries. Of the nine species which show a recovery ratio of over 10 per cent, three were hawks, three ducks and the others were the Common Heron, Cormorant and Shag.

After listing the species which were ringed in the largest numbers and a few of the rarer species of special interest, Witherby goes on to review results and to make suggestions. As a pioneer in the marking of birds his views are of decided importance. He reiterates that "the test of the usefulness of the scheme rests entirely on the number and value of the recoveries." He believes that "the proportion and value of recoveries could be increased if ringers would have more regard for this than merely to make up a large number of birds ringed." He urges that greater attention be given to trapping adult birds and less to ringing nestlings, a view which was advanced in this country ten years ago by S. P. Baldwin and which has greatly increased the value of bird-banding in America. Witherby suggests several problems which might be answered by ringing, among them the question of why some individuals of certain species migrate than other individuals remain stationary or permanent residents of a locality.

In the September, 1929, issue (pp. 74-92), A. Landsborough Thomson has an interesting article entitled "The Migration of British and Irish Woodcock: Results of the Marking Method." The records of the Aberdeen University, "British Birds" and many private marking schemes furnish extensive data but their lack of uniformity emphasizes the advantages of the American plan of one central control of all banding operations. The results of the marking and recoveries are carefully tabulated and analyzed and the article should be read by all who are interested in bird-banding

as an aid in the study of migration. Practically all the birds were young birds when marked. About 60 per cent of the recoveries were within one year of the date of marking and 95 per cent were within four years. Single birds were recovered when  $8\frac{1}{2}$ , 11, almost 12, and  $12\frac{1}{2}$  years old respectively. As a result of the various ringing "schemes" it is obvious that "a great many Woodcock remain in their native districts throughout the winter" but that "on the other hand, some migrate to a greater or less extent." British-reared Woodcock have been taken in Portugal, Spain, France and Norway, while birds marked in Russia and Sweden have been taken in the British Isles. There is some evidence of an erratic northward dispersal similar to that shown by some of our American herons. The article ends with a bibliography of eighteen titles.

In the issue for December, 1929 (p. 200), H. W. Robinson advanced the query "Do Puffins get their Rings off?" He ringed 399 adult Puffins in Orkney in 1928 with the aid of the light-keepers. Soon after ringing these birds the keepers examined the colony and were unable to locate any ringed birds and no marked birds were recovered on the island during the following season. In 1929 a different type of band was used on 80 Puffins and "on going round those burrows later the keepers found that these clip rings were still upon their legs." Robinson asks whether the Puffins may not be able to remove overlapped bands with their formidable beaks.

In the April, 1930, issue (pp. 289-292) D. L. Collette describes experiences in "Bird-Trapping in a Suburban Garden" in Essex, only nine miles from Charing Cross. Two types of traps are illustrated by photographs, one a net-trap operated by a trigger and powerful springs, the other a large pull-string trap. Small pieces of bread and half rotted apples proved the best bait though bird-seed attracted Chaffinches in severe weather. Strawberries were excellent bait in June. Fourteen species were taken between October 28, 1928, and April 14, 1929. Many of the birds repeated but the station has not been operated long enough to record returns after a migration.—J. B. M.

**The Wilson Bulletin.** Volume XLII, No. 1. William Brewster Taber, Jr., writes on "The Fall Migration of Mourning Doves" (pp. 17-28). A map shows graphically the points of banding and of recovery, connected by straight lines. There are apparently three points of concentration of Doves in their winter range, southern Georgia and northern Florida, southern Louisiana, and northeastern Texas. Doves banded east of the Appalachian Mountains were taken in the first area, birds banded in the Wabash River Valley (Illinois and Indiana) migrate to all three areas, and birds trapped west of the Wabash area migrate only to Louisiana or Texas. A graph shows the weekly rate of trapping Doves and tables give much interesting data. Taber concludes with a number of deductions and theories but he states in the beginning "whether or not several of the theories herein developed will be tenable after further evidence is accumulated it remains for the future to disclose."

Volume XLII, No. 2. Wyman R. Green describes "Chimney Swift Banding Operations at Chattanooga" (pp. 110-118). With the coöperation of students of the University of Chattanooga, 3737 Swifts were banded between October 16, 1928, and October 19, 1929, but nearly 9000 more Swifts were captured and released unmarked for lack of bands of the proper size. Seventeen Swifts had already been banded elsewhere, thirteen at Charleston, West Virginia, one at Kingston, Ontario, one at Thomasville, Georgia, one at George School, Pennsylvania, and one at Lafayette, Indiana. Only three of the Chattanooga Swifts have been reported from other points, one from North Bay, Ontario, one from Markstay, Ontario, and one from Decatur, Tennessee. Excellent photographs show the type of trap developed for this work and practical hints are given for its management. Mr. Green closes with an appeal for coöperation from banders wherever Chimney Swifts are to be found.—J. B. M.