

riparia) she recalled her former disagreeable experience in banding these birds when she found the birds "with fat maggots protruding from their nostrils." This year the birds that she banded (426) were found to be remarkably free from parasites of all kinds.

These flies are destructive to fledgling birds, and bird-banding coöperators should carefully remove all that are noted. "As the Bureau of Entomology is actively interested in the insects which attack birds, it is suggested that when maggots are found they be dropped into a vial containing alcohol, a tag attached bearing the date, locality, name of the host, and the name and address of the collector, and then forwarded to the Bureau of Entomology, Washington, D. C., for record and identification of the parasite involved."—FREDERICK C. LINCOLN, U. S. Biological Survey.

First Banding of the Little Blue Heron in New England.—During the summer of 1930, the Pleasant Valley Bird and Wild Flower Sanctuary, at Lenox, Massachusetts, had various opportunities to fulfill its mission in behalf of birds that were in need of hospital treatment. Our most notable patient was an immature Little Blue Heron (*Florida c. cærulea*), received on August 8th. Of the hundreds of these birds that were seen throughout southern New England this fall, the distinction fell to this heron of being the first of its kind ever banded in this region. The bird was captured at Pontoosuc Lake, Lanesboro, by some small boys who claimed to have watched it struggling to arise from the water. On being notified of the event, the writer lost no time in securing the bird. Its plumage was snowy white, and it seemed to be in excellent condition, except for the toes of the right foot being mangled. Apparently a snapping turtle was the cause of its struggles. During the next five days it showed a hearty appetite by consuming a liberal quantity of minnows, and on August 13th, seeming to be perfectly able to care for itself, it was given a band numbered A519951, and freedom. Situated about a third of a mile west of the Sanctuary is the little reservoir of the Hotel Aspinwall. It was here that we found the bird until August 21st, evidently well off and none the worse for its adventures.—NAURICE BROWN, Lenox, Massachusetts.

Parasites on Birds taken at Summerville, South Carolina.—A noteworthy feature of the banding season of 1930 at Summerville, South Carolina, was the marked prevalence of ectoparasites, especially of ticks. I stated in an article published in the *Bulletin* of January, 1929, that in 1928 twelve birds out of a total of 704 banded were recorded as having ticks. In 1929, out of a total of 658 birds banded, 38 were afflicted with ticks. In 1930, out of a total of 944 birds banded, 83 were recorded as having ticks. The increase as expressed in percentages is as follows: in 1928 1.7% of the birds banded were affected, in 1929 5.77%, in 1930 8.80%. Undoubtedly a considerable number of small ticks escaped observation, so that the actual percentages were probably larger than indicated. In view of the fact that the thicket-inhabiting birds are unquestionably more likely to be attacked by ticks than those which frequent open areas, the figures just given do not convey an adequate idea of the large proportion of such species as the White-throated Sparrow and Towhee which were acting as hosts of ticks. Thus, in 1929, 13% of the White-throats were noted as being tick-infested, and in 1930, 11.7%. With the Towhees the percentage was much larger than with any other bird, 20% being infested in 1929 and 47.12% in 1930. Final determinations have not been made yet of some of the ticks which were saved, but apparently *Ixodes brunneus* largely predominated. Birds taken in the later part of the winter

of 1930 were less affected than those taken earlier. The reason for this may lie in the fact that much of the trapping during that time was done over recently burned areas. Ticks were noticed to be very much less abundant, and sometimes almost wholly wanting, on flocks taken in those sections.—
WM. P. WHARTON.

A Banded Little Blue Heron in New Jersey.—We are advised by Mr. Charles A. Urner that among the numerous Little Blue Herons on the Newark Meadows, New Jersey, this summer (1930) one adult was seen to be banded on the right leg.

In view of the extensive banding operations carried on near Charleston, South Carolina, of which Mr. Alexander Sprunt, Jr., has told us, the presumption is that this individual was banded there two or more years ago as a young bird. Sight records of the percentage of banded birds in the northern flight each summer, combined with observed percentages at the southern banding locality, would furnish interesting evidence bearing on the nature of the flight.—J. T. N.

Foot Disease on Birds at Summerville, South Carolina.—Further record of the prevalence of the foot disease which so commonly effects the Chipping Sparrow was kept during the winter seasons of 1929 and 1930 at Summerville, South Carolina. In 1929, 44 birds of this species out of the 323 banded were found to be affected with this trouble in its active form (13.62%), while 31 showed unmistakable evidence of having had it and recovered from it. In 1930, 13 of the 255 birds banded were found to have the disease in active form at one time or another during the season (5.09%), while 24 showed evidence of having suffered from it previously.

Field Sparrows were diseased to the extent of 3 out of the 17 banded in 1929 (17.6%), and 11 out of the 57 banded in 1930 (19.3%).

Out of 21 Juncos banded in 1929, 2 (9.50%) were affected with an active foot disease which heretofore I have assumed was the same as that found on Chipping and Field Sparrows. (Owing to the different appearance of the swelling on the feet of Juncos, and the apparent lack of inflammation severe enough to cause maturation and subsequent loss of portions of the toes, as happens with Chipping and Field Sparrows, I have recently felt doubts of the identity of the disease found on this species.) Out of 49 Juncos banded in 1930, 3 were affected with active disease, and one had a sort of a canker on the foot which may have been related to it. Assuming that 4 birds had the disease, the percentage was 8.16%.

One Meadowlark out of the 29 which were banded in 1930, was recorded as having the "left middle toe swollen to next to last joint; beyond that atrophied and dried up." This case, in appearance at least, resembled the foot disease as it frequently manifests itself on Chipping Sparrows.—
WM. P. WHARTON.

Irregular Molting of a Savannah Sparrow.—On September 4, 1930, we noted a Savannah Sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis savanna*) with an apparently injured wing. The bird was able to rise only twelve or fifteen inches above the ground and flutter quickly to earth again. Deciding to investigate, we gave pursuit, when, after several failures of this kind, the bird abandoned attempts to fly and began to run through the grass. We were soon able to capture it and found eight primaries and three secondaries missing. As these were in consecutive order beginning with the second primary, quite a gap was made in the wing. All the upper coverts were also involved. The new primaries and secondaries were in