

A Junco Recovery.—At my banding station in Quincy, Massachusetts, I banded a Junco (*Junco h. hyemalis*), A155918, on October 29, 1929. Thirty-three days later, on November 30th, the bird was killed with a bean-blower by a boy named D. A. Britt in Candor, North Carolina. The distance between Quincy and Candor is about 675 miles, so the bird averaged at least 20.5 miles per day, assuming the bird left here on October 29th and traveled the shortest route and was shot on the day it arrived.—SETH H. LOW, Quincy, Massachusetts.

A Chipping Sparrow Recovery.—The Biological Survey informs me that a Chipping Sparrow, C4398, banded by me at Sanbornton, New Hampshire, May 18, 1930, was killed by Dave White at Douglass, Georgia, December 25, 1930.—E. C. WEEKS, Sanbornton, New Hampshire.

Bird-Banding in a New York City High School.—Even in a city as large as New York, bird-study, as a part of the elementary course in biology, may lead to some unusual banding records. On November 11, 1929, a student whose home is in the Bronx asked one of our teachers if she would like a bird with a very long bill. She and her father had seen the bird on Sunday beating against the side wall of their yard, and had noticed that it was bleeding about the bill. Tuesday she brought it to school in a grape-basket with a cheesecloth covering. All day long the students in the science department had what was probably their first and only view of a live Woodcock (*Philohela minor*). At the close of school the bird was taken on the train to White Plains, New York, where it was banded in the presence of a group of small boys, and released about dusk in a wooded ravine. It could not seem to navigate, for it lost its balance continually, probably because of lack of food. To prevent death by cats, the bird was brought home again in the basket. That evening Mr. Colvin Farley, another bander, released it in a part of his garden which is surrounded by a two-foot wire fence. I hope it continued its migration, for no trace of it was seen the next day or after.

The capture of a Woodcock in the Bronx was a surprise, but a greater one was yet to come. Just a week later a boy brought in a Saw-whet Owl (*Cryptoglaux a. acadica*) which he had found in a hallway of an apartment house in the Bronx near High Bridge, which spans the Harlem River near its junction with the Hudson River. This bird likewise added a good deal of local color to the science classes and was duly banded at my station at White Plains. As it was the first owl I had banded, I was surprised at the twisting abilities of its head and the sharpness of its claws. At the suggestion of the boys, it was finally provided with two pencils to hold in its talons while the band was attached. Silently it flew from the perch it had found in our apple tree, and it has not been heard of since.

Early in the morning of October 31, 1930, a janitor discovered a bird in a small room on the fifth floor of our school building. He lost no time in reporting the fact to Mr. Hastings, the head of our science department, who captured the bird, a Barn Owl (*Aluco pratincola*), and put it in a scrap-basket with a cardboard cover. The owl was banded at a meeting of the Science Club that afternoon and was liberated from the roof by the members. It is not the return records, interesting as they would be, to which I look forward in banding these birds, but the excitement and interest that accompany each visit when birds invade our school building. It is the stimulation of the imagination in discussions of banding for scientific purposes, and the idea that some of the students may later find pleasure in

bird-banding and in securing scientific results, or may even bring in reports of banded birds, that seems to me their greatest value.—GRACE COIT MELENEY, 200 Chatterton Parkway, White Plains, New York.

A Fox Sparrow with the Trap Habit.—That indifference to being trapped and handled is not limited to one or two species seems proved by the following records of a Fox Sparrow (*Passerella i. iliaca*), 190169A, taken first on November 14, 1930. A flock of a score or more of this species had been about this feeding and trapping station since October 27th, and nine had been taken and banded at odd days before this individual was taken. Being busy with other Sanctuary duties, especially forestry im, provement, I place the sparrow-trap on the feeding station at odd periods and birds can enter at will, and go out if they have the instinct or brain-development to remember the way, this latter ability being highest in the Chickadee. This particular Fox Sparrow repeated on November 19th, 20th, 21st, 24th, 25th, 28th (five times), and 29th, and on December 4th, 10th, 13th, and 15th. Few if any other Fox Sparrows were to be found in the vicinity after November 20th, but this individual seemed loath to leave the spot despite the repeated handling. Doubtless if constant attention could have been given to the trap, the bird could have been taken many times each day during its stay.—LESTER W. SMITH, Stone Bird Sanctuary, Babson Park, Wellesley, Massachusetts.

Song Sparrow, Junco, and Purple Finch Recoveries.—At my banding station, "West Wind," at Oliverea Post Office, New York, a Song Sparrow (*Melospiza m. melodia*) 165752, was banded July 26, 1925. This bird was captured by F. J. Williams at Hookerton, North Carolina, January 9, 1927. Another one, banded October 4, 1926, was dropped by a Shrike, April 15, 1927, at Landsgrove, Vermont, and was found by E. Earl Richardson. Landsgrove is some eighty miles northeast of "West Wind".

Slate-colored Junco (*Junco h. hyemalis*) 66726, banded April 20, 1928, was found dead by Paul G. Sheriff at Portage, Pennsylvania, March 25, 1929, and another bird of this species, A168501, banded October 19, 1929, was captured by A. Whitsill, February 1, 1931, at Heiberger, Alabama.

A Purple Finch (*Carpodacus p. purpureus*) banded May 3, 1929, was killed by a cat at Kentville, Nova Scotia, May 26, 1930.—FLORENCE K. DALEY, "West Wind", Oliverea P. O., Ulster County, New York.

Moulting of Adult Female Purple Finches.—Observations at my Peterboro, New Hampshire, banding station during the summer and fall of 1930 seemed to indicate that some adult female Purple Finches complete their moult much later than the average. Mr. M. J. Magee writes me that moulting of old Purple Finches, in case of many birds, usually begins in July, often by the first of the month, although other birds do not begin moulting until early August; also, that he has noted an occasional male not through moulting as late as October 24th. He sends me several records of females with moult about completed by September 17th or the 20th. In *Bird-Banding*, Vol. I, n. s., No. 3, pp. 136 to 139, he states that "the first female apparently through moulting . . . was trapped September 16th and the first adult male apparently through moulting was trapped