

Interesting Record of a Banded European Goldfinch.—Mrs. Annie S. Wilder, of Westfield, Massachusetts, is the first person in this country to trap and band a European Goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*). This bird was first seen at her station on January 29, 1930, and it was banded on January 31, 1930, with band C25713. In order to obtain positive identification it was taken to Mr. Thornton W. Burgess in Springfield, Massachusetts, ten miles distant, who pronounced it to be a European Goldfinch. The following morning the bird was back for food and came every day up to March 11th.

This winter (1931) it was again at her station on January 6th and came daily up to January 22d when it disappeared, reappearing on February 13th. During both seasons it has consorted at times with American Goldfinches (*Astragalinus t. tristis*), and like them its food while at her station consisted of sunflower seeds and some canary seeds. The bird has not sung during its visits so far as known, and its sex has not been determined.

This Goldfinch is probably a descendant of those liberated at Hoboken, New Jersey, in 1878, birds which, however, obtained only a feeble foothold in this section, although Chapman records having seen two at Englewood in that State in 1911. This species was also probably introduced in New York City and in Boston, Massachusetts, about that time. In Europe the Goldfinch is generally migratory in the northern part of its nesting-range, since Newton states that most of the Goldfinches leave Great Britain in the fall. It is, of course, quite unknown whether or not the few birds of this species in this country have any established migration habits. The presence for two successive winters of the Westfield bird north or west of the place where the species was liberated, under conditions as regards temperature more severe than in Great Britain, would seem to indicate that it was uninfluenced by the migratory instinct of the species. It is possible that the European Goldfinch is only migratory in the northern part of its nesting-range, and that the birds brought to the United States came from southern Europe, where the species may be a permanent resident.

The significance of the occurrence of this bird for two winters in Westfield is, therefore, doubtful: that is, as to whether it migrates from there in the spring and returns in the winter, or is a permanent resident in that section of Massachusetts.—CHARLES L. WHITTLE.

A Robin Occupies Abandoned Nest of a Catbird.—During a search for nests a Catbird was frightened from her nest in a euonymus bush. After I failed to catch her at night for banding, she abandoned the empty nest and built another nest in another bush and raised a brood. Very soon after the first nest was vacated it was adopted by a pair of Robins, the female laying four eggs and raising four young. These Robins were seen to occupy a Catbird's nest which contained not a particle of mud.—HAROLD B. WOOD, M.D., Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

A Recovery and a Return from the Highway.—In *Bird-Banding* Vol. I, No. 4, page 190, is given some good advice to banders, namely: "Examine Birds Killed by Automobiles". I have found several birds killed on the highway, but have not yet found any wearing a band. To date, however, I have had two birds banded by me found dead on the highway by others who brought them to me. They are as follows: Savannah Sparrow, C67906, banded July 1, 1930, found dead on the highway August 2, 1930,

by David Fritz, the place of recovery being about a half-mile east of my station. The return is of a male Purple Martin, A210085, banded by me on May 18, 1929, which was found on June 29, 1930, by Charles Bryens crushed on the highway about one hundred feet from its place of banding. I have seen Martins on the surface of the stone road rather often, but whether this bird was overtaken by an automobile, or had struck a telephone wire and fluttered to the road and became crushed, is not known.—OSCAR MCKINLEY BRYENS, McMillan, Luce County, Michigan.

RECENT LITERATURE

Der Vogelzug, vol. 2, No. 1, January, 1931.

The initial number of the second volume of this journal opens with the twelfth report on the ornithological work of the biological station on Helgoland, by Rudolf Drost. The report deals chiefly with matters of equipment, routine, the establishment and growth of a reference collection of bird-skins to illustrate molts, and plumages, etc. It gives one a feeling that the scientific results achieved in the past should be greatly extended in the future now that the physical equipment of the station is ample.

Drost and Bock write on some data on bird migration in the North Sea area obtained in the spring of 1930 as a result of the coöperative work of the international observation stations (Danish, Dutch, German, and English). All these stations, together with lighthouses and lightships, were working simultaneously each day from 6.15 to 9.15 A.M., and direction of flight, etc., was duly recorded by compass-readings, making it possible to correlate all the individual observations. Another season's work will be necessary to enable one to judge the significance of many of the data now available for the North Sea. Much of importance may be expected as a result of this coöperative method of study. The present report whets one's appetite without giving much actual information.

Schüz, the able director of the Rossitten station, discusses some old and new attempts to understand the ability of birds to find their way. This is a very valuable and stimulating paper, although it presents no new facts but consists merely of a critical restatement of previously published material, carefully gathered and classified. The work of Rivière on homing pigeons is briefly reviewed, and also that of Coward on the Noddy and Sooty Terns, of Schenk, Wachs, Watson and Lashley, of A. L. Thomson, Culemann, Stimmelmayer, and others, on terns, swallows, Bluethroats, etc. The noteworthy feature of the paper is that the author attempts, for the first time (and successfully), to classify these data, and thereby to eliminate some of the apparent contradictions in the literature reviewed. He finds, for example, that young birds removed from their birthplace, and then reared and liberated elsewhere, generally tend to follow the right direction in their first autumnal migration, although they may not meet with what would have been their original path, but parallel it. This was tested and found to hold true for Storks (*Ciconia ciconia*). A Swift, (*Apus apus*) taken from the nest in Braunschweig and reared and liberated in Berlin, was found to return next spring to the general neighborhood of Berlin (Spandau). This indicates that the tendency is to return to the place where the bird was reared and from which it started on its migration the previous autumn, not necessarily an "ancestral" home. Of course in the normal course of events in nature, the place from which the fall migration starts and the "ancestral" breeding-area are the same, but the present case of the Swift indicates clearly which part of the "home complex" is really effective in its influence.