

returns from one winter ago—a Downy Woodpecker, two Chickadees, and a Tree Sparrow. It will be seen that two Hairy Woodpeckers and a White-breasted Nuthatch were here for the fourth winter, and a Tree Sparrow for the fifth.

Certain species present a great contrast in the numbers present; the Tree Sparrows banded are as follows: January-March 1928, twenty-five; January-March 1929, twenty-six; January-March 1930, six; January-March, 1931, one; December-March, 1932, forty-one. No flock came this winter till February 6 after a heavy snow-fall. The Chickadees banded in January-March 1931, numbered twenty; in January-March 1932, one (I had, however, banded seven in November-December, 1931, some of which stayed on). Species not mentioned above that were banded this past winter, were Red-breasted Nuthatcher and Brown Creepers. At the end of March, three Song Sparrows were banded at the same spot, though never seen there before; a blizzard dammed up the migration, and presumably these birds were hard put to it and ranged about widely for food.

It is proper to state that as "returns" the status of most of the birds mentioned above is not absolutely satisfactory, because they are trapped in the winter months only. I should acknowledge considerable help from friends at my banding station, in particular from Messrs. W. L. Clark and W. L. Vaughan.—F. B. WHITE, Concord, N. H., March 31, 1932.

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**A Longevity Record for the Hutchins' Goose.**—In the popular mind geese are among the birds that may attain "a ripe old age," a belief that is supported by data available from zoölogical parks and aviaries. To Mr. Frank W. Robl, of Ellinwood, Kansas, the Biological Survey is indebted for the details concerning a Hutchins' Goose, band No. 105728, which apply to this subject.

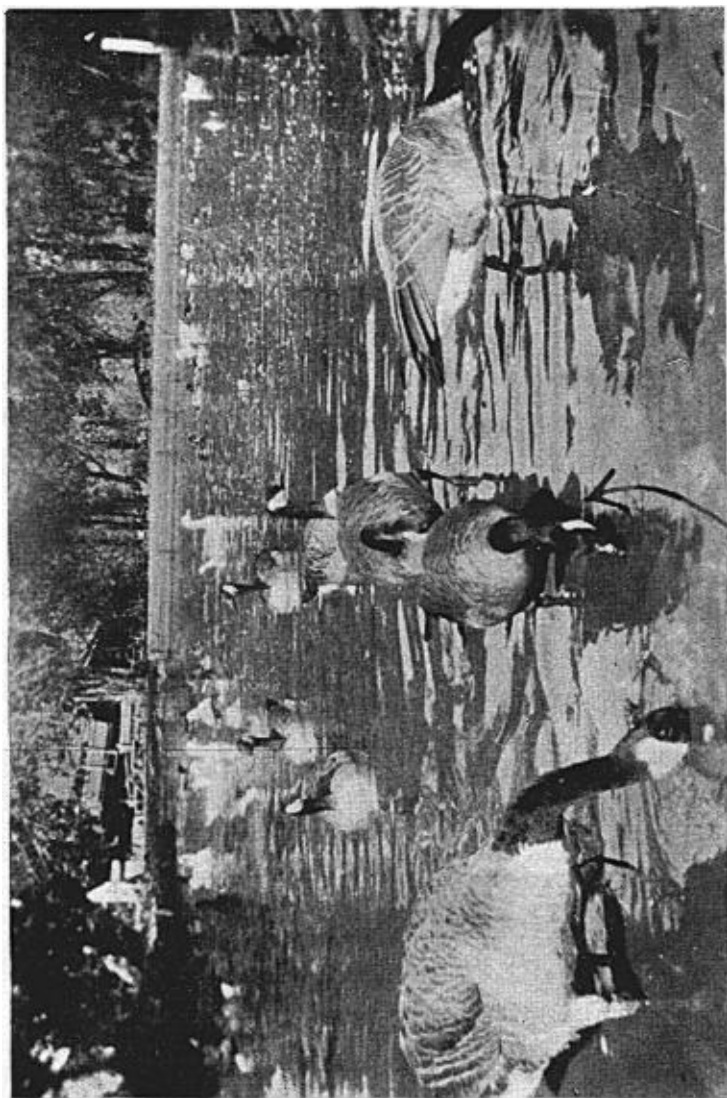
This bird came to Mr. Robl's sanctuary in the spring of 1907, and died on February 5, 1932, apparently from natural causes. Accordingly, it was at least twenty-five years old, and as it was fully adult in 1907, it is probable that at least two or three additional years may be added. Although full-winged, it made no attempt to migrate with the other geese that regularly visited the sanctuary; instead it seemed content to remain and rear young under Mr. Robl's protection. Broods were raised successfully each season for the last ten years.

According to Mr. Robl, she "showed her age" very much during the last year of her life, and he thinks that the loss of her mate last fall was a contributory factor in causing her death. The bird has been mounted and will be so preserved.

The accompanying photograph, supplied by Mr. Robl, shows 105728 (center front) with some of her companions on one of the sanctuary ponds.—FREDERICK C. LINCOLN, Biological Survey, Washington, D. C.

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**The Number of Eggs per Nest of the Vesper Sparrow.**—The note in the January (1932) number of *Bird-Banding* by B. S. Bowdish indicates that there may be some variation in the number of eggs laid in individual nests by the Vesper Sparrow in different parts of its range. Some years ago I made a practice of noting the particulars of nests found, including the number of eggs or young. The results of these observations, as relating to the Vesper Sparrow, are tabulated below.



ARROW SHOWS HUTCHINS' GOOSE

Year	Month	Date	No. of Eggs	No. of Young	
1896	May	14	4		
	July	5	4		
1897	May	18	4		
	June	21	4		
1898	May	28	5		
	July	7	3		Fresh
1899	May	26	5		
	June	28	5		
	July	26	5	3	Just hatching
1900	May	21	5		Nearly fresh
	May	27	5	5	
	July	11	5		About hatching
	July	12		5	
	July	14	5		
1901	May	22	4		About hatching
	June	5		5	Fresh
	July	7	4		Nearly fresh
	July	7	2		Fresh
	July	10	3		Fresh
	July	14	3		Nearly fresh
1902	May	19	2		Fresh
	May	19	3		Fresh
	July	4	4		Fresh
1903	May	25	5		Added
	May	25	5		Added
	May	28	3		Fresh
	May	31		5	
	June	16	5		Nearly fresh
	June	25	5		
	June	27	5		
	June	27	4		
1904	July	16	3		Fresh
	May	24	1		Fresh
	May	24	3		Fresh
	May	30	3		Fresh
1904	June	25		4	
	July	3	4		Nearly fresh
1905	June	7	4		Added
	July	26	3		Nearly fresh
1907	June	10	1		Fresh
	July	3	4		Almost fresh
	July	4	5		
	July	5	5		
	July	28		4	
	July	28	4		
1908	June	3	4		Nearly fresh
	June	4	5		Added

It should be added that the above records were all made near my home at Aweme, Manitoba.—NORMAN CRIDDLE, Treesbank, Manitoba.

**Two Possible Migrating Family Groups.**—During the four-day period of October 10-13, 1931, five White-throated Sparrows (*Zonotrichia albicollis*) were banded at the writer's station in Wells River, Vermont. Of this number, one was an adult male, one was an adult female, and three were young. The number and age and sex-relationship of this group seem somewhat significant, and there are other facts which, in correlation with those mentioned, tend to enhance their possible significance.

At this station a garden is the usual seat of banding operations. Below the garden, a hillside covered with shrubbery slopes down to a narrow strip of woodland. Only about a half-acre is included in the shrub-covered area, and it is quite isolated from other tracts of a similar character. White-throated Sparrows do not nest there, and it is not frequented to any great extent by migrants of this species. During the migration of the fall of 1931 White-throated Sparrows were less numerous than usual there.