

## GROUP I—PROTECTED BIRDS

	Banded	Recoveries	Rate in Percent
Passerine birds, Austin Station, 1930 and 1931.....	7031	9	.13
Sea-birds (Gulls and Terns), 1930 and 1931.....	8042	15	.18
Passerine birds, M. J. Magee.....	18459	59	.32
Black Skimmers, Gillespie.....	5290	7	2.4

## GROUP II—BIRDS CUSTOMARILY SHOT

Purple Grackle, McCann.....	6305	33	10.8
All Hawks and Owls except the Screech Owl.....	73507	266	7.6
(included are all the protected species in first table, Group I)			
Ducks, 1920-1926.....	12119	1675	13.82
Unprotected Hawks and Owls.....	1506	178	11.8

<sup>2</sup> and <sup>3</sup> *Bird-Banding*, Vol. III, No. 2, pp. 59-63.

<sup>4</sup> *Bird-Banding*, Vol. III, No. 3, pp. 111, 112.

<sup>5</sup> *Bird-Banding*, Vol. II, No. 2, p. 52.

<sup>6</sup> *Bird-Banding*, Vol. II, No. 4, p. 174-176.

<sup>7</sup> Dr. F. C. Lincoln *in litt.*, Aug. 2, 1932.

<sup>8</sup> Dr. F. C. Lincoln, U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, Circular No. 118, May, 1930.

—WARREN F. EATON, 128 Wildwood Ave., Upper Montclair, New Jersey.

**Mortality in Marsh Hawks.**—In June and early July, 1930, Dr. Paul L. Errington, of the University of Wisconsin Bird-Banding Station, banded twenty-five young Marsh Hawks (*Circus hudsonius*) in the vicinity of Madison, Wisconsin. The bands were applied very shortly before these birds were able to fly. In June and early July, 1931, he banded twenty-two more, making a total of forty-seven.

Of these, reports have since been received concerning the following:

- A626610, banded June 11, 1930; shot, Mineral Springs, Arkansas, Feb. 1, 1932.
- A626613, banded June 11, 1930; shot, Elgin, Texas, Dec. 25, 1930.
- A626615, banded June 11, 1930; shot, Rayne, Louisiana, Nov. 5, 1930.
- 456978, banded June 13, 1930; shot, Coloma, Waushara Co., Wis., July 26, 1930 (about 70 miles north of Madison).
- A626621, banded June 13, 1930; shot, Downs, Kansas, Aug. 2, 1930.
- A626623, banded June 13, 1930; shot, Branch, Louisiana, Dec. 5, 1930.
- A673915, banded June 26, 1930; stepped on in nest by cow, July 2, 1930.
- A673917, banded June 26, 1930; shot, Santa Rosa, Texas, Feb. 11, 1931.
- A673923, banded June 20, 1931; killed in nest by unknown predator, July 5, 1931.
- A673925, banded June 20, 1931; killed in nest by unknown predator, July 5, 1931.
- A673928, banded June 20, 1931; shot, Mercer, Missouri, Oct. 2, 1931.
- A673931, banded June 20, 1931; found dead, Iowry, Minnesota, Aug. 22, 1931. ✓
- A673932, banded June 20, 1931; killed in experiment.
- A626617, banded June 30, 1931; killed at nest by mink, July 8, 1931.
- A673927, banded June 30, 1931; killed at nest by mink, July 8, 1931.
- A695914, banded July 3, 1931; shot, Cassoday, Kansas, Oct. 31, 1931.
- A626620, banded July 5, 1931; killed at nest by mink, July 8, 1931.

Omitting the one killed under experiment, we have then approximately thirty-four per cent of the banded birds dead within a period of one year and nine months from the time they began to fly. All but one of them were dead in less than eight months, and six perished a few days after being banded. Those on which we have returns lived on the average only about one hundred and twenty days after being banded. Nine were shot. Considering the offhand way in which most hunters shoot down hawks, without bothering to retrieve them, and the small chance there is for the observation by competent and interested persons on birds that perish in other ways, these returns certainly make it appear probable that very few indeed of the Marsh Hawks hatched in any year live to see their first birthday.

Two other facts in these records are worth calling attention to. First is the fact that two hawks shot before September of the year they were banded were killed a considerable distance *north* of the place of banding. This rather points to an exploration flight before real migration, a habit

not unknown in some other species. Secondly it is worth noting how soon after the power of flight is attained migration southward occurs. The appearance of one of them in Kansas not more than fifty days after first flying is certainly unexpected.—GEORGE WAGNER, University of Wisconsin.

**Juvenile Towhees Return to Birthplace**—Recent notes in *Bird-Banding* as to whether juveniles return to the place of their birth to breed have prompted the writer to scan returns on Towhees secured during the past eight years on Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts. Mrs. Gillespie and I have banded sixty-nine Towhees during this period, twenty-one of which were adults and the remaining forty-eight immatures, readily separable from their parents by their streaked sides and flanks. Four adults, or about nineteen and one half per cent, have returned subsequent years. Of the immatures, seven, or about fourteen and one half per cent, have returned subsequent years to the identical spots where banded, being trapped in midsummer, often with young ones, so that no doubt existed as to their being breeding birds.

The seven instances of immature Towhees returning the following year after birth are as follows:

- 244653—banded during summer of 1925 by Miss Grace C. Meleney, was trapped by us on June 28, 1926, and July 18, 1927.  
476687—banded July 17, 1927—returned July 21, 1928.  
476696—banded Aug. 1, 1927—returned Aug. 12, 1928, and July 22, 1929.  
478671—banded Aug. 3, 1927—returned July 28, 1928.  
Found dead by Miss Meleney.  
478672—banded Aug. 3, 1927—returned July 30, 1928.  
242013—banded Aug. 7, 1928—returned Aug. 24, 1929.  
Trapped by Miss Meleney.  
A201140—banded Aug. 28, 1929—returned Aug. 21, 1930.  
Trapped by Mr. Thomas F. Power.

The trapping stations of Miss Meleney and Mr. Power are in close proximity to our station at Oak Bluffs, Massachusetts, the territories at times overlapping one another.—JOHN A. GILLESPIE, Glenolden, Pennsylvania.

**Locating Returned Song Sparrows Banded as Nestlings.**—In order to locate the Song Sparrows (*Melospiza melodia beata*) banded in the nest that survive to the beginning of the next nesting season, a great deal of searching has to be done. I cover the whole sixty acres of Interpoint repeatedly, making occasional trips one-eighth of a mile to the north and the west and three-fourths of a mile to the south. Some of the young residents are located in the fall, and others in late January or early February during the first spell of warm weather that starts this species into territory activity. The resident males should be discovered and their locations mapped before the summer residents arrive from late February to the first few days of April.

The best time to examine the females is from their arrival in late March to the middle of April. At this time the pair keep together, the female is not yet incubating, and the leaves are not out; after nesting has begun it is a tedious task to wait for the female to leave her nest (unless one wishes to find the latter). The limits of a territory can be found by following the birds: they will go ahead for a certain distance, but double back when they reach their boundary. The male can be distinguished by his tendency to keep behind and above his mate as if guarding her; she stays near the ground, and it is no easy matter to make sure whether or not she carries a band.

After I find a bird banded only on the right leg (as I band all my nestlings; all other Song Sparrows receiving the aluminum band on the left leg), I