

## GENERAL NOTES

**Starling-Banding in Central Ohio During 1932.**—A total of 10,645 Starlings have been banded in the Columbus region from 1927 to January 1, 1933, by the cooperative efforts of various members of the Wheaton Club. A few birds have been captured during each month of the year, but all of the large bandings have been during four months—March, 4901; February, 2336; December, 1792; and January, 1568. Totals for years were as follows: 1927, 948; 1928, 1322; 1929, 4813; 1930, 449; 1931, 0; 1932, 3113. These bandings were by bands issued to Edward S. Thomas, Lawrence E. Hicks, George Wolfram, Roscoe W. Franks, William Ireland, Floyd B. Chapman, and C. Conklin. Mr. Thomas has summarized and presented the returns and other data obtained from the 1927–1930 bandings.

The banding work, after being dropped in 1931, has been resumed again to collaborate results of the early bandings, to obtain additional data on migration habits, to attempt to solve a long list of still perplexing problems, and to make specific studies of the behavior and physiology of the species. In 1932 a total of 3113 new bands were placed by the writer with the assistance of William Ireland, Floyd B. Chapman, and Walter Fassig.

Because of the extremely mild weather, it was impossible to band any Starlings during the winter of 1931–1932 until after the sudden cold snap in March. This cold weather concentrated the birds which were in our territory and delayed the migration for about twenty days after the usual date for the disappearance of flocking birds. An attempt was made to band as many as possible of the late migrants, ten bandings during the latter part of March yielding 1474 birds.

During December 1932 seven bandings in Franklin and Delaware counties totaled 1584 birds. Of these, 106 or nearly 7 per cent, repeated during the month. The percentages of returns at six bandings in December were 9, 6, 10, 10, 10, and 3. A total of 122, or 7.7 per cent of the birds banded in March, 1932, returned in December, 1932. Also returns were secured of 8 birds banded in early 1929. The percentage of recovery of Starlings from distant points is surprisingly low, usually being about 2 or 3 per cent.

It is hoped that several thousand more Starlings can be trapped during the first three months of 1933. About 60 adults and nestlings have been banded during the summer season, but it is necessary to band at least a thousand more to solve questions concerning our breeding population. The value of the banding work would be greatly increased if twenty-five banders in Ohio and the adjacent States could be induced to take up the work. Starling-banding becomes increasingly fascinating as the study progresses and gives one the exceptional opportunity of being able to follow the travels of an introduced migratory species. Frequently Starlings can be easily captured in numbers at night where they congregate in the towers of buildings or in cupolas of barns. The writer would be pleased to hear from other banders interested in working with this species.—LAWRENCE E. HICKS, Department of Botany, Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio.

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**Banding Provides the First Certain Record of the Eurasian Pintail (*Querquedula acuta acuta* L.) in North America.**—About May 1, 1932, Mr. Samuel Hobbs, of Bradore Bay, Saguenay County, Quebec, shot, on a pond on the mainland near Bradore Bay, a male Pintail which bore a band inscribed as follows: "P. Skovgaard, Viborg, Danmark, V, 4720." The duck was plucked and eaten, but the band was saved and was shown to me in July, 1932, at which time I copied the inscription directly from it. Bradore Bay is situated on the north shore of the Gulf of St. Lawrence,

near the western end of the Strait of Belle Isle and the eastern boundary of Canada. In reply to inquiry Mr. Skovgaard has kindly stated that this band was placed on a young Pintail at Adaldal, near Husavik, in northern Iceland, on June 30, 1930. This record appears to supply the first certain evidence of the occurrence of *Dafila acuta acuta* in North America and so provides a basis for the addition of that subspecies to the A. O. U. "Check-List."—HARRISON F. LEWIS.

**Nesting White-throated Sparrow Returns.**—The White-throated Sparrow nests commonly about my station. Thirty-two birds of this species were banded by me during the season of 1931, five of which returned this season. Following is the record of these birds:

- A 191428—Banded June 25, 1931. Repeated Aug. 25.  
Returned May 4, 1932. Repeated May 9, 15, 20, 24, and July 5, 20, 23.  
B 169666—Banded Aug. 23, 1931. Repeated May 9, 15, 20, 24, and July 5, 20, 23.  
Returned April 30, 1932.  
B 169672—Banded Aug. 31, 1931. Repeated May 9, 15, 20, 24, and July 5, 20, 23.  
Returned June 17, 1932. Repeated July 8.  
B 169676—Banded Sept. 2, 1931. Repeated Sept. 3, 21.  
Returned July 6, 1932.  
B 169681—Banded Sept. 9, 1931. Repeated May 9, 15, 20, 24, and July 5, 20, 23.  
Returned May 4, 1932. Repeated May 5, 9, 11, 18.

These birds were all banded as adults. I feel that it is reasonable to conclude from the above data that at least some of these birds nested in the vicinity of my station.—BYRON W. MCPHETERS, Pine Street, Bar Harbor, Maine.

**Returns of Banded Purple Martins.**—During the four years 1925–1928 the writer banded a number of Purple Martins (*Progne subis subis*) which nested in a 10-room martin-house at Fredericktown, Ohio. As probably none of these are still living and as several results of interest have been obtained, a brief report is now made.

A total of 36 Martins were banded, including 16 adults and 20 nestlings, by operating string hinge traps placed at the entrance of each nesting compartment. The openings were sufficiently large to permit ready capture of the adults without interference with nesting activities. Adults were retrapped repeatedly (during experiments several females were captured ten or twelve times daily) without any great disturbance which might result in desertion. The males, however, became timid after repeated trapping.

Fifteen adult birds repeated 96 times. Five were taken as returns in the same house one or two years after banding, and two distant recoveries were recorded. A female, 346412, was banded at Fredericktown on June 13, 1926, and repeated fourteen times at the nest-box between June 13th and July 28th, successfully rearing a brood of four young. This bird was found dead by D. H. Gerwick, Martinsburg Road, Mt. Vernon, Ohio, on June 5, 1927, ten miles from the place of banding. The bird was apparently nesting at the martin-house at that place.

A male, 72541, was banded at Fredericktown on May 5, 1925, and repeated eight times from May 5th to July 7th, raising three young. In 1926 this bird nested in the same room as the previous year, again raising three young and repeating twelve times from April 29th to July 8th. On May 5, 1927, during a severe storm the bird was found with a broken wing at Hillsboro, Ohio, by Clyde L. Strofe, a distance of about one hundred and twenty-five miles from the point of banding. The date would appear