

The birds banded are as follows:

Adult Common Terns	34
Immature Common Terns	1966
Immature Roseate Terns	300
Total	2300

—CHARLES B. FLOYD,
Auburndale, Massachusetts.

Banding Some Birds of Prey.—In the two years since I got my banding-license and commenced banding whenever opportunity offered, without trapping, I have banded fourteen birds of prey and had two returns. On June 9, 1932, I climbed to a Red-shouldered Hawk's nest that I had long known and found two young still downy but for pin-feathers on their wings. One merely opened his mouth wide and stuck out his queer-shaped tongue at me; the other backed to the verge of the nest, stood upright with little wings wide-spread, and shrieked. His call had the typical downward inflection of his kind. The parent answered, swooping down within a yard of me, but then vanished. Neither of these birds (B661484-5) has yet been heard from. Others were raised in 1933 but had already flown when I went to band them.

On June 24, 1932, I was guided by H. C. Holton of Mt. Hermon, Massachusetts, to a Marsh Hawks' nest which he had discovered on May 29th while searching for a Bitterns' nest. It had then contained five eggs, but we found only three young, of different ages. The oldest scrambled off into the bushes, and had to be brought back by the wings and held (very belligerent) until banded, when it again dashed away. The second resisted with quick strokes of claws and bill, but remained on the nest. The third was diminutive and very meek. Three weeks later, July 15th, one of these Harriers was shot in the neighboring town of Bernardston by a twelve-year-old farm-boy. Alarmed at finding a band on the bird, he buried it, and only much later told his father about it. Hearing the story from the father, Mr. L. R. Nelson, taxidermist, of Winchester, New Hampshire, dug up the remains and forwarded the band to Washington. Presently I was notified that B661476 was "reported shot by L. R. Nelson"—an ambiguous sentence that I misinterpreted. I wrote Mr. Nelson (whom I had met) reproaching him with killing, so young, a bird protected in Massachusetts. He indignantly replied with the above account.

On June 28, 1932, I climbed into the church-steeple in Springfield, Massachusetts, where two broods of Barn Owls had been raised the previous year. Two addled eggs and two downy featherless youngsters were found on the dung-crusted masons'-platform. They hissed furiously and backed away. Neither parent appeared. A few days later, an adult Barn Owl entered an eighth-floor window in an office-building and was held captive for several days. Fearful of starvation for the young, I wrote the Springfield papers about them, and the son of the church janitor took them under his protection. On October 21st one of these two was shot "by mistake for a Barred Owl" at Whitman, Massachusetts, eighty-two miles due east of Springfield. "This kind of owl is unknown to me; please send me information," wrote the killer in returning the band to Washington. Long, purposeless flights of this kind probably first brought to Massachusetts the Barn Owls that now seem so firmly established. The nest-mate, B661481, has yet to be heard from. In 1933 Barn Owls bred in the tower of the Court House, unsuccessfully (because so early) in February, but successfully later in the spring, and their unsophisticated children got into many difficulties

in July, entering a photographer's studio, perching where boys could nab them, and even getting picked up by traffic-policemen from the middle of streets. Two that were taken to the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals headquarters were banded by me, C616776-7, before release.

On July 15, 1932, the weak, shrill scream of a Broad-winged Hawk called my attention to a nest fifty feet up in a white pine in rocky, wet woodland in Hadley. With alarmed expressions, three young were found in the nest. I had only one No. 6 band left, and had to put No. 5's on two of them. They offered no resistance to the operation of banding. Their eyes were baby-blue, and their feathers were about half grown. A number of hawk feathers were in the nest, which I supposed had been shed by already molting parents. What was my surprise when at the Harvard Museum they were positively identified as eggs of the Cooper's Hawk! As soon as I could, but two weeks later, I went back, but the nest was empty and I could only hear, and barely glimpse, the hawks in the foliage near by: so I reported the three as Cooper's Hawks. Revisiting the place on June 28, 1933, I several times heard and finally glimpsed a Broad-wing, but the high nest looked unoccupied. July 16th, however, I determined to climb to it again and found in it three cold, rain-stained eggs. These I compared with museum specimens: they were positively the eggs of a Broad-winged Hawk. They matched, moreover, the half-shells I had taken, with the Cooper's feathers, from the nest in 1932. So I feel convinced that bands A538161-2 and B661483 are being worn by Broad-winged Hawks, and I explain the presence of the feathers of the Cooper's Hawk either by the capture of a sick or wounded bird of that species or by supposing that a hungry Cooper's Hawk daringly attacked the young Broad-wings and was despatched and eaten by their parents.

On July 8, 1933, finally, I heard from a swampy woodlot in Westhampton the weak scream of a Red-shouldered Hawk. Upon investigation I discovered a youngster perched on a dead limb only five feet above ground. Cautiously approaching, I was able to grab his tarsi. Laid gently on his back, he gripped my hand with both feet, but did not break the skin. Once banded, he refused to let go, and as I strove to replace him on his perch I happened to feel his breast-bone, which was frightfully sharp, and realized that his tameness and weak grip came from starvation. Either he had been abandoned by his parents before he had learned to feed himself, or—more likely—they had been killed. I tied the bird to the handle-bars of my bicycle and rode with it to the zoölogical building at Smith College. There he was fattened on mice: two dozen little mice at one meal made his crop bulge ridiculously. After a week, July 15th, I took the bird to the nearest woods and released it. It merely hopped around, but its wings seemed normal. Nine or ten hours later, a friend telephoned me to come and see a big hawk being pestered by Robins, and I beheld my protégé, at a goodly height in a tree. Next morning this friend telephoned again that the hawk had screamed and had apparently been answered by another high in the sky, and had flown up to join it. I shall, of course, be particularly interested to hear (if I ever do) of this bird's fate.

Birds of prey make a romantic appeal to many people. We all deplore the indiscriminating slaughter of them by gunners, farmers, and game-breeders. The pole-trap has been particularly assailed. But it has occurred to me that a humane pole-trap ought to be practical and might be used by banders. Why not make a spring trap, not with metal jaws that grip the leg, but with widely looped jaws of wire filled in with light, loose netting? A bird alighting on the pan of such a trap would then be enclosed in this netting. Set up near game-farms, in sanctuaries, or on the routes of hawk migration

with a captive owl for decoy, such traps might harmlessly lead to the banding of quite a few of these interesting and endangered birds.—S. A. ELIOT, Jr., Smith College, Northampton, Massachusetts.

Some Notes on the Hairy Woodpecker.—The question has come up as to whether the male or female Downy Woodpecker (*Dryobates pubescens medianus*) selects the nesting-territory. This raises the same question as to the habit of the Hairy Woodpecker (*Dryobates v. villosus*) in this respect. Turning to my notes accumulated since banding was begun at this station, I find two interesting cases, where the female Hairy took the initiative in this act.

The first case has to do with a female which was first noticed at our yard on February 14, 1931, and later trapped and banded as A379710. She thereafter made it a daily habit of coming to feed, either on doughnut or suet, several times a day. The period of her visits extended throughout the following spring and summer, but with longer intervals between visits during the summer and sometimes with an absence of a few days. By August her visits were again daily and continued to be so until November 1st, after which she was not seen and may have migrated with others of the species, passing over at about this time.

On April 15, 1931, a male Hairy was seen about the station with A379710, and they were together more or less thereafter. There was no active mating display, and at no time was a second male seen to contest the male's suit. The female soon selected a spot on the north side of an apple tree trunk three and one half feet from the ground, and began digging a nest-cavity, working at it silently and methodically, mostly during the forenoon but sometimes of an afternoon. This site is forty yards from our yard; and while the male never came to the yard to feed, the female often left work and came directly to my feeding station. The male rarely came near her when she was at work, and when he did so, he alighted on the trees no closer than forty feet away. She usually met him there, and they flew away together. He spent practically all of his time in the woods and his winter territory to the south, and here the two went when together. Close to this apple tree the Hairy selected, stands a tall and large elm stub in which three pairs of Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*) were nesting.

Before the Hairy nest-cavity was completed, the bird was inadvertently frightened away. She then went to a partly decayed elm one hundred and fifteen yards to the southeast, where a second cavity was begun situated some twenty-five feet from the ground, which but for a limb too tough to work through might have served for a nest. On May 14th she returned to her apple tree. The following day the birds were seen in the act of copulation; and in due time a set of four eggs was deposited. A pair of the ubiquitous Starlings, desiring to nest again, entered the Hairy's nest May 28th and destroyed the eggs and drove the female away. She then went to an apple tree twenty-five yards to the northwest, and enlarged an old Downy Woodpecker nest-cavity to accommodate her needs. Again the Starlings disturbed her and they finally drove her out and used the site for their own purposes. The result was that the birds were again driven away and they apparently nested in near-by woods, though the nest was not found. The female continued to feed at the yard, and later both adults were seen when carrying food to the woods. The male disappeared soon after nesting was over and was not positively seen again.

During 1932 a pair of Hairy Woodpeckers nested near my station and were frequently seen, but neither bird wore a band and neither came to our yard for food.