

Catbirds that have reached full maturity have arrived earlier than younger birds.

The data at my station thus far indicate that immature birds seldom return.

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The writer wishes to acknowledge the courtesies of Mr. Charles L. Whittle, the O. L. Austin Ornithological Research Station, Mr. William P. Wharton, and Dr. Harold B. Wood, both for furnishing him with valuable banding data from their records and also for allowing him to incorporate them in this paper.

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#### GENERAL NOTES

**Bird-Banding in the Antarctic.**—It may be unknown to most bird-banders that about twenty-five years ago some bird-banding was practised in the Antarctic. L. Gain, zoologist of the Second French Antarctic Expedition (1908–1910) on the "Pourquoi Pas?" published in the report of this expedition [Deuxième Expédition Antarctique Française (1908–1910), Oiseaux Antarctiques, par L. Gain (1914)] some observations he obtained by banding two species of Penguins (*Pygoscelis adeliae* and *papua*) and one species of Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax atriceps*).

As the results of this banding work were very interesting and most readers may not be acquainted with the original report, I quote Mr. Gain's banding notes in full:

**Adélie Penguin** (*Pygoscelis adeliae*)

"At the first stay of the "Pourquoi Pas?" at Petermann<sup>1</sup> Island (12 January, 1909) we put on the right tarsus of some young and adult Penguins celluloid bands colored differently, according to the age of the birds, namely violet bands on 50 adult and yellow bands on 75 young birds. In October and November 1909, when the birds were returning to the rookery, we were lucky enough to find back eleven of the adult birds banded nine months before: on November 7th we observed three Adélie Penguins and on November 22nd eight other Adéliés wearing violet bands, which we had put on their right tarsus on January 12th. Possibly there were still more banded birds, but it was difficult to make out, as the birds were pecking and delivering blows with their flippers. We even observed that the banded birds made their nests on the very same rocks as last year. We did not find any yellow bands, so it appears that the young birds do not return to their birthplace and do not breed before two years old."

**Gentoo Penguin** (*Pygoscelis papua*)

"As with the Adéliés, we desired to know if the Gentoo Penguins also return year after year to the same rookery. To learn this we banded in two different rookeries, more than two hundred kilometres away from each other, some young and adult birds with differently colored bands. At our first stay at Port Lockroy (Wiencke Island) on 28 December, 1908, we put

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<sup>1</sup> As I was unable to locate Petermann and Wiencke Islands on any maps I have, I wrote Mr. James L. Peters for the needed information, and I quote his reply in full: "Petermann and Wiencke Islands are both small islands in the so-called Antarctic Archipelago, which is situated south of the southern tip of South America. The approximate latitude and longitude of the two little islands is Lat. 65° S, Long. 64° W. It is quite certain that the *Pygoscelis papua* found there would be the typical form."—EDITOR.

fifty green bands on the right tarsus of fifty adult birds; on January 12, 1909, at Petermann Island twenty brown bands on adult birds and twenty pink bands on young ones. When the birds were coming back during October and November, 1909, at Petermann Island, we found, though with much difficulty, five adult birds wearing brown bands, being twenty-five per cent of the birds marked. But I could not observe at ease the birds of this rookery, as they were very shy at my approach. It may be possible that there were other banded birds which escaped observation, even all birds had not yet returned to the rookery at the time the "Pourquoi Pas?" was leaving Petermann Island on 15 November.

"These observations prove that the same birds returned year after year to the same rookery. We could not find any bird with pink bands, which proves that the young ones do not return to the rookery before they are two years old.

"On November 26, 1909, during our too short stay at Port Lockroy, we observed, though with much difficulty, as the birds were very shy, two Gentoo Penguins wearing green bands, which we had put on eleven months before. After our return to France we learned that in the beginning of 1911 some whalers, who had left their station at Deception Island for Port Lockroy, found under the birds killed, some wearing bands we had put on December 28, 1908."

**Blue-eyed Cormorant** (*Phalacrocorax atriceps*)

"Desiring to learn if the same Cormorants return to their old nesting-places, as do the Penguins, we marked on 12 January, 1909, at Petermann Island these birds in the following way: three blue bands on adult Cormorants, three females who were most easily to approach, and five green bands on young birds. During our stay at Port Lockroy on 28 December, 1908, we marked ten adult Cormorants with reddish brown bands and ten young birds with pink bands. On October 7, 1909, one of the pairs nesting at Petermann Island returned to their old nest. The female bird wore a blue band on her right tarsus which we had put on on 12 January. So it is certain that the same birds return year after year to the same rookeries. During our stay at Port Lockroy (Wienecke Island) on 26 November, 1909, we observed in the same rookery nine of the ten birds banded on 28 December, 1908. We did not see enough young birds to make out if there were among them some we had banded in 1908."—FR. HAVERSCHMIDT, Utrecht, Holland.

**Sex ratio in the House Sparrow.**—An interesting discussion of sex ratio in the Starling in the July (1934) *Bird-Banding* (Hicks), leads me to consider and place on record data on the sex ratio in the House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) at Garden City, New York. This is based on proportional counts by sight of birds about my banding station, and on birds banded, from January, 1930, through May, 1934, counts made in the seven months from November to May only, as from June to October birds in juvenal plumage occur which are indistinguishable from females.

The total counts for these months within this period amount to 7754, 4243 male and 3511 female, 55 per cent males.

Analyzing by months, we have for November, 778 males and 606 females, 56 per cent males; for December, 532 males and 404 females, 57 per cent males; for January, 420 males and 369 females, 53 per cent males; for February, 388 males and 396 females, 49 per cent males; for March, 828 males and 661 females, 56 per cent males; for April, 859 males and 628 females, 58 per cent males; and for May, 438 males and 447 females, 49 per cent males.

The total number of House Sparrows trapped and banded in these same