

The assistance of our many contributors in the preparation of earlier volumes has been invaluable, and I ask that it be continued. Those who send in material suitable for use in the work will have their names placed on the mailing-list to receive future volumes.—ARTHUR CLEVELAND BENT, Taunton, Massachusetts.

A letter from William J. Lyon to Ira N. Gabrielson, Chief U. S. Bureau of Biological Survey, Proposing a Change in the Inscription on Bird Bands

Ira N. Gabrielson, Chief,
U. S. Biological Survey,
Dept. of Agriculture,
Washington, D. C.
Dear Sir:

It is my conviction that a much increased number of reported returns and recoveries would result from a change in the marking of the bands used by bird-banders under Federal permit.

Some years ago Dr. A. R. Shearer, of Mont Belvieu, Texas, wrote about the trouble he had had in securing the bands from birds killed for food by colored people and Mexicans. Even when he knew that a bird with a band had been taken, he found that the hunter's fear of prosecution for illegal killing prevented the delivering-up of the bands. He could get bands at last only by visiting these people frequently and obtaining their confidence.

Apparently "U. S. Biological Survey" means nothing to many hunters, and to the illegal killer, it suggests Federal prosecution. Hence I propose that, in the interest of securing the largest number of returns from the birds that are killed, the bands be stamped "Notify Box Z, Washington, D. C.," or in some similar manner.

Yours very truly,
WILLIAM I. LYON,
Inland Bird-Banding Association.

November 30, 1935.

RECENT LITERATURE

(Reviews by Margaret Morse Nice)

The articles have been selected and arranged under subjects of importance to students of the living bird and also for the purpose of suggesting problems or aspects of problems to those banders who wish to make the most of their unique opportunities.

Headings in quotation marks are the exact titles of books or articles or literal translations of such titles. Other headings refer to general subjects or are abbreviated from titles in foreign languages. References to periodicals are given in italics.

BANDING AND MIGRATION STUDIES

Banding in Switzerland.¹ A. Schifferli, Jr., reports 20,681 birds banded in 1933, of which 7 species of Titmice totaled 7202, Starlings 3719, and Swallows (*Hirundo rustica*) 1140. The arrangement of data is excellent, for one can see at a glance the age of the bird when banded and recovered and the distance and direction of the place of recovery from that of banding. Many examples are given of young returning to their birthplaces. A few distant recoveries are reported for Blue Titmice (*Parus cæruleus*), 860 kilometers southwest, and Coal Titmice (*Parus ater*), 195 kilometers south. A Swallow reached the age of seven years, as did a Common Buzzard (*Buteo buteo*). Two Alpine Swifts (*Micropus m. melba*) banded as nestlings were found nesting in their birthplace eight years later.