

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE HERON SURVEY

During 1940 color banding of colonial birds will stress a new object—herons (chiefly night herons, plus a few green) instead of herring gulls. Modelled on the Gull Survey—though on a much smaller scale as yet—a Heron Survey will cover several rookeries. Ultimate results will depend on the feasibility of sight returns and the co-operation of individual observers. Returns should follow a natural pattern. The following table is intended to show all uses of color bands on any herons in the United States. It is hoped that notes on omissions, plus all reports of birds seen, will be sent to the Heron Survey, New England Museum of Natural History, 234 Berkeley Street, Boston, Mass.

1937-38: New York City region (Allen and Mangels): 2 colored bands on each leg (plus a Survey band).

1939: Waltham, Mass.: red on right leg, Survey on left; Perugue, Mo., black on right, Survey on left; Davis Co., Utah (Woodbury), red over Survey on right, yellow on left.

1940: All rookeries will have blue on right, and, on left: Waltham, Survey over red; Perugue, Survey over black; Marshfield, Mass., Survey over blue; Tyngsboro, Mass., Survey over yellow; Newport, R. I., Survey over white.

BIRD-BANDING wishes to be of the greatest possible assistance to all banders, and feels that in publishing notes on particularly successful technique it is furthering this idea of greatest service. To this end all banders are urged to send in brief notes of methods that they may have developed that are producing good results, especially on "hard to catch" species. Such notes may deal with baits, trap improvements and various other refinements and improvements of technique.

INFORMATION WANTED ON INCUBATION PERIODS

A serious gap in our knowledge of bird life in this country lies in the absence of definite information on nesting. Some of the chief points we need to know on even our commonest species are *accurate records* on: share of the sexes in building, in incubation, length of incubation period, share of the sexes in care of the young, length of time young stay in the nest, age when young become independent.

As to length in incubation, this should be counted from the laying of the last egg to the hatching of the last egg, in case all hatch; or from the laying to the hatching of marked eggs. (Eggs can be marked as laid with India ink and a grass stalk as a pen.)

Much information on these points was published in the journal *British Birds* by observers who sent in summaries on a number of

species, a method that gave a maximum of information in a minimum of space.

I hope that readers who have *definite* records on the above points will summarize them and send them in to *Bird-Banding*.—Margaret M. Nice, Chicago, Illinois.

THE SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF SPECIATION

A society of individuals interested in various aspects of the dynamics of the origin of species is in the process of being organized. The members include Botanists, Zoologists, Bacteriologists and Anthropologists from the fields of Cytology, Genetics, Ecology, Paleontology, Physical Anthropology, Comparative Psychology, Taxonomy, Physiology, Embryology and the Biology of Populations.

It is not desired that one more formal organization be added to the large number of societies already in existence, but the need is felt for an informal cooperative group of scientists willing to pass information from one to the other. It is proposed that a rather informal information service be instituted through the publication of a booklet to contain recent bibliographies, information from the various laboratories and critical discussion of recent phases of the study of speciation. The dynamics of the origin of races and subspecies is included as a center of interest as well as the origin of higher categories which contribute to our knowledge of the origin of species.

No dues are contemplated at the present time during the period of organization, but a modest amount will probably be contributed by the members when the need and value of such an organization is manifest. The cost of organization and the first booklets is being defrayed through an anonymous grant.

The following men have agreed to act as an executive committee for the receipt of funds and the determination of policy: Edgar Anderson, John M. Beal, William Burrows, L. J. Cole, L. R. Dice, Th. Dobzhansky, Alfred Emerson (Secretary), A. C. Kinsey, W. M. Krogman, Raymond Pearl, Karl P. Schmidt, George G. Simpson, and Sewall Wright.

About 250 members have already joined the Society. Those interested are asked to communicate with the secretary.

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