

McGilvrey Hall on the campus of Kent State University, Kent, Ohio, the writer captured a male English Sparrow (*Passer domesticus domesticus* L.) which had the left leg broken off at the end of the tibia. The bird was trapped on June 15, 1941, in an ordinary sparrow trap with five other English sparrows and was banded with Biol. Surv. band 136169. In the trap the crippled bird seemed to get around and feed without difficulty and to compete successfully with the other birds. The following spring this bird returned, and was found dead in the trap on May 14, 1942.

While studying marine life at Cape Ann, Massachusetts, in the summer of 1936, the writer observed a mature Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus smithsonianus* Coues) with a single leg. The left leg was broken off close to the body. At first the bird appeared to be simply standing on one leg, but continued observation showed the left leg to be missing. The bird was seen in a small flock on an exposed sandy-mud bar in a tidal inlet, and was later observed on this bar on several different occasions.—RALPH W. DEXTER, Kent State University, Kent, Ohio.

**Sex Ratios.**—The following data have been compiled from the records of the Summerville, South Carolina, station of William P. Wharton, who presented a summary report of the results of twelve years of banding in South Carolina in the October, 1941, issue of BIRD BANDING (XII: 137-147). Sex ratio figures were easily accessible only for the years 1931-1937, and for the species here listed, during which period a total of 8,743 birds was banded, and a total of 1,564 return records made, a percentage of 17.88.

TABLE I  
*Sex Ratios Compiled From Birds Banded at Summerville, S. C. 1931-1937*

	Male	Female
White-breasted Nuthatch.....	7	1
Red-breasted Nuthatch.....	1	1
Golden-crowned Kinglet.....	—	1
Ruby-crowned Kinglet.....	13	5
Red-winged Blackbird.....	18	8
Cowbird.....	57	32
Cardinal.....	124	119
Red-eyed Towhee.....	190	130
White-eyed Towhee.....	58	51
TOTALS.....	468	348

TABLE II  
*Sex Ratios Compiled From Return Records—Summerville, S. C. 1931-1937*

	Male	Female
Cardinal.....	20	19
Red-eyed Towhee.....	48	23
White-eyed Towhee.....	17	9
TOTALS.....	85	51

The above tables seem to contain a few items of significance. Ignoring those species banded in small numbers, the most striking one seems to be the more balanced sex ratios in Table I of the resident species, as compared to the migratory ones.

The difference in the two tables in the ratios for the White-eyed Towhee is interesting. The figures in Table I, from new bandings, can be assumed to represent, in a large proportion, birds of the year. Those in Table II represent birds nearing two years old and older. While the first group is in good balance, the second group, composed of older birds present on the area during the winter, shows nearly two males for each female. The Cardinal, on the other hand, maintains its remarkably balanced sex ratio in both tables.

The figures for the Red-eyed Towhee in Table II, also show a shrinkage among the older birds in the ratio of females to males.

Obviously the above items cannot be fully interpreted. They refer only to one locality. They do, however, cause speculation as to which factors in the life histories of the species referred to, perhaps ones connected with their breeding habits, are responsible for the differences in sex ratios noted.—EDWIN A. MASON, Wharton Bird Banding Station, Groton, Massachusetts.

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## RECENT LITERATURE

Reviews by Margaret M. Nice

### BANDING

**1. Bird Banding Notes.** 1942. Vol. 3, No. 4 : 57-66. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D. C. Due to the difficulty of obtaining aluminum, no new permits for banding are being issued, and the banding of colony birds is discouraged. Experiments are being made with cellulose-acetate plastic for bands of sizes 5-8. During 1940 428,185 birds were banded, during 1941, 357,174, the total since 1920 coming to 4,069,501. Species banded in the greatest numbers were: Chimney Swifts, Mallards, Common Terns, Pintails, Juncos, White-throated Sparrows, Herring Gulls, Grackles, Starlings, Song Sparrows, Robins, Purple Finches and Redwings.

**2. Migration of the Tricolored Red-wing in Central California.** Johnson A. Neff. 1942. *Condor*, 44 : 45-53. *Agelaius tricolor* is "a species of gregarious and erratic habits", largely confined to California. Between 1924 and 1940, 19,700 were banded. There have been 93 recoveries, i.e., 0.47 per cent. These show a northwestward movement after nesting to coastal farming areas and rice-growing districts. The oldest bird reached 6½ years. Blackbird damage to rice and other grain crops has decreased since 1932.

Banding was also used in Numbers 3, 4, 14 and 15.

### LIFE HISTORY

**3. Supplementary Notes on the Royal Albatross.** L. E. Richdale. 1942. *Emu*, 41 : 169-184, 253-264. Information on four seasons since the author's first paper (1939, *Emu*, 38 : 467). Six pairs of *Diomedea epomophora sanfordi* were banded with aluminum and colored bands. Faithfulness to mate and nesting site was found to be the rule. If a chick is raised one year, the parents take a year off before returning, nesting every other year. The egg is laid in November, it is hatched after 77-80 days, and the young bird is fledged in late September. If the egg or chick is lost, parents return the following fall; one pair that lost their chick in late March "returned after six months' freedom." One pair have been together since 1935, one since 1937, three since 1938. One female lost her mate and apparently was "forming a new alliance", (p. 180). With each pair "the female always had a much darker crown than the male."

At one nest the male sat on the eggs from 4 to 14 days at a time, 43 days in all, while his mate sat for 3 to 10 days, totalling 36. At another nest the female's periods lasted from 3 to 10 days, the male's from 3 to 5. At still another the female sat from 1 to 5 days, the male from 1 to 3. The chick takes three days to hatch. Spells at the nest shorten after hatching, none being over 5 days. These young are not deserted before they are fledged as in the case with some birds of this family, but smaller meals are given near the last and the young lose some of their extra weight. An admirable study based on the use of colored and aluminum bands.