

with five returns, and 30 nestling catbirds giving no returns. During five years I banded 136 adult and 87 nestling Bank Swallows, *Riparia riparia riparia* (Linnaeus), at the only sand-bank within many miles. Not one of these birds were among the 49 adults caught at the sand-bank two years later, and during the four previous years only one of the 223 Bank Swallows was caught as a return. Purple Martins, *Progne subis subis* (Linnaeus), totalling 27 adults and 99 nestlings, were banded at a large colony house during three years, with no returns during those years; in later years frequent inspections revealed only one bird with a band. These records from a small banding station, although not many, tend to support the contention that returns of birds to their natal environment are actually few in proportion to those banded as nestlings, at least for the species herein considered.

3016 North Second Street, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

GENERAL NOTES

Recovery of Chickadee Bands from Screech Owl Pellet.—Since October 27, 1946 a Screech Owl, *Otus asio naevius* (Gmelin), has been roosting in a large bird box in our back-yard, and I have been picking up pellets beneath the box for examination. All of them seemed to contain the remains of mice, until on March 4, 1947, a small pellet was picked up which contained two bands. Upon checking my records I found that I had placed these bands on Chickadees, *Parus atricapillus atricapillus* Linnaeus, one 42-57193 on August 4, 1945, and the other 40-22749 on September 18, 1946. Just prior to this, there was a fairly heavy fall of snow which undoubtedly made the owl unable to secure mice, so he resorted to the Chickadees.—MRS. CHARLES L. SMITH, 75 Westland Road, Weston 93, Mass.

A New Species is Added to North American Bird Banding.—On January 18, 1947, I had the good fortune to add a new species to bird banding history. The bird that had its name entered for the first time in banding records was first observed on January 12th within the Toronto area. On January the 14th a second of the same species put in its appearance within two hundred yards of the first one's territory. On this date both birds were observed in flight at one time. The birds were none other than one of our apparently decreasing species: the Great Grey Owl, *Scotiaptex nebulosa* (Forster).

The successful day was clear, cold, and the newly fallen snow made our footing silent. We arrived at our destination armed with a caged rat in a sack, a number of padded and weakened muskrat traps, our usual pocket full of various gage nooses, and general banding equipment. After an hour's search our quarry was sighted, perched ten feet from the ground in a large willow. In order to put our first tactic into effect, my two assistants held the owl's attention while I set the muskrat traps on short posts plainly in view of the bird. The caged rat was then placed within the trap circle and I retreated, taking with me the sack. Immediately his interest centered on the rat, and the thought of a very hearty meal. However, after watching him turn on the perch a dozen times and seeing him almost strike over and over again, our patience became exhausted. This called for tactic number two. A long willow sapling was secured and a sturdy copper noose affixed to the small end. The first try to slip the noose over the owl's head failed and he glided away. After an hour of try after try, however, the feat was successful and the bird was toppled from his perch, and in a split second was firmly held

in my hands. Thus was the first Great Grey Owl banded for science. On his release he flew to a nearby tree, and we retreated in the opposite direction.

Not satisfied with one, we decided to try for the second possibility. Day was fast departing and the hopes of even locating the second bird were fast fading, when, huddled close to the trunk of a large poplar I met him face to face. I immediately retreated a few feet to fix the noose, but again on advancing the first couple of steps the bird flushed. This individual was far wilder than the first and at no time did he allow us within range with the noose. After numerous attempts the snare was abandoned, and after getting him to perch in an open tree the rat technique was put into play. At sight of the rat he fluffed up his feathers and advanced along the limb of the tree toward the rat, bobbing and glaring at his quarry. The latter went on for a full half hour when finally he sailed from his perch and landed on the snow beside the caged rat. The rat squealed, and the owl retreated to a nearby lamp post to survey the situation. However, his second strike was made in about ten minutes. He lit again beside the cage, stalked around it, sailed onto the cage top and thence onto our trap topped post. The post fell over as he flew and he was pulled to the ground and was ours.

On arrival home, a letter was dispatched to Washington. Official word was received February 17th from Dr. J. W. Aldrich, of the Fish and Wildlife Service, stating:—"We are able to report that no other owls of this species have ever been banded."

These two owls bring our Toronto owl banding activities for this winter season to a grand total of 30 individuals of five species, namely,—Saw-Whet Owl (*Cryptoglaux acadica* (Gmelin)); Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus* (Gmelin)); Long Eared Owl (*Asio wilsonianus* (Lesson)); Screech Owl (*Otus asio* (Linnaeus)); and Great Grey Owl (*Scotiaptex nebulosa* (Forster)).—GORDON LAMBERT, 202 Heward Ave., Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

RECENT LITERATURE

Reviews by Donald S. Farner and others

BANDING

(See also Numbers 29, 43, and 45.)

1. **Report from the Lapwing Banding Station, Reeuwijk, for the Years 1943-1945 and Contributions Concerning the Migration of the Lapwing.** (Verslag van het Kievitenringstation "Reeuwijk" over de jaren 1943-1945 en gegevens over de trek van de Kievit.) H. Klomp. 1946. *Limosa*, 19(3/4): 76-117. The data on which this paper is based are those obtained from the station operated by J. and C. van der Starre on a small island in a lake near Reeuwijk, a village in the vicinity of Gouda. Lapwings are trapped in spring and fall migration, banded, measured, weighed, sex and age determined, and released. Banding returns and recoveries show clearly that the Lapwings of northern and northwestern Europe pass through the low countries in large numbers in migration, most of them wintering in France or on the Iberian Peninsula; few winter in the British Isles. There is, in both sexes, a statistically reliable difference in wing length between first-year birds and adults. Also there is a statistically reliable difference in wing length between the sexes. Other age and sex differences are noted. In spring 58 percent of the migrating Lapwings were males; in fall, 59 percent. About 40 percent of the population, spring or fall, consists of first-year birds, indicating an annual mortality rate of about 40 percent. This agrees exactly with the calculations of Kraak, Rinkel, and Hoogerheide (*Ardea*, 29: 151-175, 1940). Four distinct phases in southward migration are noted. Late in May and more particularly in June the Polders around Reeuwijk are populated with birds in (1) *early summer southward migration* (de vroege zomertrek, Frühsommerzug, or Frühweg-