

GENERAL NOTES

More on Temporary Loss of Flight.—The note in "Bird-Banding" for April, 1948, entitled "Temporary Loss of Flight" recalls a good many similar cases in my experience. While I am not in a position to give details at this time, I can say with some assurance that the story on all these birds was practically the same. With the earlier cases there was nothing to indicate anything wrong until the birds were released after banding, when they fell to the ground and fluttered off, unable to rise. In some cases I was able to catch the bird, and put it in a cage, where it was held for a few days, and then given another chance. After experimenting with this treatment, it was found that most individuals became able to fly again in about three weeks. It is remarkable, judging from my experience, that Mr. Blake's robin 47-309853 was able to fly on the evening of the same day on which it had appeared to be flightless. When the flightless birds escaped, the chances were that most would be recaptured later, and in these cases recovery of flight seemed to take about the same time, possibly a little less on the average. After experience with a few of these cases, I noticed that they usually followed a severe struggle in the hand, and that I usually sensed a slight snap as the wings were thrown back. After further experience, I often could tell before releasing a bird that it would not be able to fly. Finally I called the matter to the attention of a well-qualified ornithologist (I cannot now remember who), and was told that the trouble might be caused by the straining or displacement of a ligament in one wing. (It should be added that affected birds almost always turned around or rolled over in their efforts to fly.) As nothing was broken, time would restore the injured part to normal. Since loss of flight seems usually to be due to injury to a wing, I am now very careful to seize a trapped bird and close my hand on it as quickly as possible, watching my chance between struggles. It is, of course, important to hold the wings against the body firmly during the banding process.—Wm. P. Wharton, Groton, Mass.

Two Recoveries and Two Returns.—A Blue Jay, *Cyanocitta cristata bromia* Oberholser, trapped and banded no. 46-307205 by me at Cotuit, Massachusetts September 13, 1946 was reported by the Fish and Wildlife Service as having been found dead by Mrs. Charles Neff at Mt. Wolf, Pennsylvania November 20, 1946. Mrs. Neff, reporting the recovery, stated that the bird had a broken wing and leg when found. Mt. Wolf is six miles north of York and the bird was found a mile south of Mt. Wolf. The bird was immature when banded—in juvenal plumage, or at least mostly so.

A Bronzed Grackle, *Quiscalus quiscula aeneus* Ridgway, trapped and banded no. 40-302851 by me at Cotuit August 6, 1940 was reported by the Fish and Wildlife Service to have been found at Chatham, Massachusetts April 19, 1947 by Bobby Clem. On corresponding with Mr. Clem I learned the bird had been found dead with a wound on the neck. He was able to make a mounted specimen of it and estimated it had been dead about 18 hours. He also stated that it was a Bronzed Grackle with no admixture of Purple blood and it appeared to be a male. This bird at the time of banding was immature (in juvenal plumage, or at least mostly so.) Therefore the bird was nearly seven years old, which is no doubt longer than the usual life span of the species. Chatham is approximately 25 miles east of Cotuit. Until recently all grackles I have banded have been recorded as the Bronzed, the amount of Purple Grackle admixture, if any, being unknown.

Another grackle trapped and banded no. 41-356338 by me at Cotuit July 20, 1946 was recaptured at the same place as a return July 5, 1947. The bird was an adult male at the time of banding.

White-throated Sparrow A-150515, *Zonotrichia albicollis* (Gmelin), *Bird-Banding* 18 (1) 1947 p. 32, reported as a return (banded December 16, 1945 at

Salem, Massachusetts and returning October 26, 1946) was recaptured again at the same spot in Salem as another return on January 16, 1948.—Benjamin Shreve, 29 Chestnut Street, Salem, Massachusetts.

Some Notes on Movements of Black-capped Chickadees at Three Rivers, St. Joseph County, Michigan.—In *Bird-Banding*, July, 1938, p. 159, Mr. B. S. Bowdish reports on the movements of the Black-capped Chickadee at his Demarest, New Jersey station, in which he judges that newly-banded birds in March replaced to some extent those that were banded earlier in the winter season, since very few of the earlier banded birds were retaken later that season. Mr. Bowdish reports that of 27 *Parus a. atricapillus* banded prior to March 1st, only eight such "old-timers" repeated after March 15th, and these, only once each. The winter, 1946-47 was a big one in trapping chickadees at this station, and banders may be interested to know how this compares with the experience of Mr. Bowdish. I began banding at this location on December 17, 1945. My first chickadee was 44-12420 on January 15, 1946; it was retaken on Jan. 19th and Feb. 3rd. Only two others were trapped and banded that winter. These are: 44-12421 banded Feb. 3rd; it repeated on Feb. 5th. #44-12422 banded Feb. 4th was not retaken, and these are my only dates of trapping these three birds. The next chickadee was on September 15, 1946 when one was banded, #44-12425. My next was 44-12426 on Sept. 19th. These two birds were next retaken on December 19, 1946 and these may have been a mated pair. My last date is of #44-12426 on May 24, 1947.

My next came on December 2, 1946, when the winter run began, and it ended on April 13, 1947 when the last capture was secured (not including 44-12426 retaken May 24, 1947, which is already mentioned). These are as follows:

Band number	Date banded	Number of times	
		retaken	Date last retaken
44-12432	Dec. 2, 1946	34	Apr. 13, 1947
44-12433	Dec. 8, 1946	12	Mar. 11, 1947
44-12434	Dec. 8, 1946	63	Mar. 30, 1947
44-12435	Dec. 20, 1946	12	Jan. 1, 1947
44-12436	Dec. 20, 1946	4	Jan. 4, 1947
44-12437	Dec. 21, 1946	34	Mar. 30, 1947
44-12438	Dec. 23, 1946	41	Mar. 30, 1947
44-12441	Jan. 3, 1947	5	Jan. 22, 1947
44-12443	Jan. 16, 1947	23	Mar. 30, 1947
44-12444	Jan. 16, 1947	14	Feb. 10, 1947
44-12445	Jan. 16, 1947	27	Apr. 13, 1947
44-12447	Jan. 29, 1947	6	Mar. 30, 1947
44-12448	Feb. 2, 1947	14	Mar. 30, 1947
44-12449	Feb. 16, 1947	7	Mar. 30, 1947
44-12450	Feb. 20, 1947	16	Mar. 30, 1947
44-12451	Mar. 3, 1947	6	Mar. 30, 1947

From my list of individual chickadees trapped in winter of 1946-47 given above, and by observing how late in the season they remained according to the date last retaken, it may be noted that some individuals that were banded in the first part of the season were among the last to leave. Also, that Mar. 30th is the last recapture for nine of the 16 birds that I trapped during this period. Only two were retaken later than Mar. 30th; these being nos. 44-12432 and 44-12445 which were last retaken on Apr. 13th. Only one of these 16 birds escaped being trapped for a period of time of more than a month from date of banding to date last retaken, and that is 44-12433 which was not retaken between Jan. 8th to Mar. 10th inclusive.—Oscar McKinley Brynes, 231 South Main Street, Three Rivers, St. Joseph County, Michigan.