

end of September, 1948, on the hills near Kyle Strome, Sutherland, Scotland (58°20'N: 5°00'W). According to the report that came to the Fish and Wildlife Service from Miss E. P. Leach of the British Museum (Natural History), all that remained of the bird when the band was recovered was a "much mutilated foot . . . after it had apparently been eaten by some bird of prey." No. 47-305032 was banded on July 5, 1947, as a non-flying juvenal and was found on November 10, 1948, at Kingfisher Creek, Sedgefield, near Wilderness, Eastern Cape Province, South Africa. The report on this bird came from J. Vincent of the South African Ornithological Society.

During the summers of 1947 and 1948, 2900 Arctic Terns were banded, most of them as juvenals, at Machias Seal Island. Only the above two significant recoveries have been obtained so far from those birds, but it is hoped that a continued banding program at the same colony in subsequent years may result in the establishment of other important recovery points along the migration routes of this important "globe trotter."—Oscar Hawksley, Central Missouri State College, Warrensburg, Missouri.

Saw-whet Owl Recommended Band Size Questionable. On completion of our first 14 years of bird-banding activities over 200 Saw-whet Owls, *Aegolius acadicus* (Gmelin), have been captured and banded by our Toronto group of banders. The first capture of this particular species was managed in 1934, and was the only one observed by us that year. The year 1935, again, was marked by one lone capture; 1936 produced three; 1937: 2; 1938: 1; and in 1939 no less than 18 of these fascinating little mousers were caught, banded, and sent on their way. Between the latter year and 1947 an average of from 18 to 25 birds were handled by us each season. The fall of 1948 proved to be our jack pot year, with no fewer than 62 individual birds being banded up till the end of December.

From all of the above banded birds, one lone individual has been entered in the return class. This Saw-whet Owl was banded on October 29, 1939 and was shot with an air gun by a lad at London, Ontario on November 24, 1939; one month after banding and a distance of 120 miles away.

With our first capture, back in 1934, we had to use a No. 4 size band. A No. 3 size (recommended in "Manual for Bird Banders") proved too small. The second bird captured required a No. 5 for a proper fit on the bird's tarsus. This procedure was maintained until the year 1942; when a startling discovery was accidentally made. A bird had been captured, a No. 5 band affixed to its left tarsus and placed in a cloth bag for releasing at dusk; which is my usual procedure with owls. Dusk descended and on removing the bird from the bag I proceeded to recheck the serial number before releasing. To my amazement, the band was gone, and on further investigation it lay, torn open, in the bottom of the bag. A few days later two individuals were captured, and out of curiosity I took them home; banded both with a No. 5 size (in both cases the No. 4 band was too tight on the heavily feathered leg) and placed in individual cages. Three consecutive nights, both birds, either removed or badly bent the bands. This brought about a belief that possibly all of our Saw-whet Owl bandings had been in vain; hence a new procedure had to be adopted. Both birds were fitted with a clipped No. 6, which is a much stiffer and heavier gage of aluminum band, and returned to their cages. Two nights passed without any mishap and both birds were released. Since then our procedure has proven satisfactory.

In concluding, it appears, that a No. 5 band, made of the same material as that of the No. 6 would be ideal for this small and beneficial mouser, the Saw-whet Owl.—Gordon Lambert, 126 Boulton Ave., Toronto, Ontario.

Two-brooded Starlings.—Mrs. Nice's query (1949. *Bird-Banding*, 20: 125. Review no. 90) on the number of broods raised by the Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) in America prompts the following:

Kalmbach (1931. U. S. Dept. Agr., Farm. Bull. 1571, p. 6) says: "Two broods are raised each year by many pairs and rarely a third is hatched." My observations in Baltimore have so regularly shown two broods to be raised that I believe this to be the rule.

In 1944 a pair of banded Starlings fledged a brood on May 21, and had been feeding a second brood in the same nesting place for 16 days when last watched on July 4; the female of this pair, at least, was a permanent resident. In 1948 one brood of a color-banded bird (sex not noted) left the nest on May 20; that nesting place was shortly destroyed, but from June 22 to 27 this bird carried raisins away from my feeding shelf, undoubtedly to a second brood being raised at a new location.

In 1939 one nesting place produced broods on May 22 and July 4. In 1945 noisy young were being fed in another nesting place on May 8 and June 17. The adults at these nests were unmarked, but the 1944 and 1948 observations support an assumption that in these instances, too, two broods were being raised by the same adults.

I have never happened to see a third brood attempted; my dates for the occurrence of young birds over a period of ten years do not seem to show time enough for the *fledging* of three broods. My earliest date for young out of the nest is May 19, 1946. My latest observed date of nest-leaving is July 18, 1940; that nest-hole had been seized from Flickers (*Colaptes auratus*) only on June 9. My latest observations of young still being fed out of the nest have been July 25, 1947, and July 27, 1939.—Hervey Brackbill, 4608 Springdale Avenue, Baltimore 7, Maryland.

A Banded Albino Robin—Many partial albino robins, *Turdus migratorius* L. have been reported from various sections of North America during recent years. Apparently the species is susceptible to frequent and varying degrees of albinism. Less often are pure albino individuals found. On July 13, 1948, Mr. Nelson Monical of the Portage Country Club at Akron, Ohio, called the writer and reported a completely albino robin fledgling which had been found on the grounds of the country club. The nest from which it presumably came was located in a tree at the edge of the golf course, and the parent birds were nearby tending this and a normally colored fledgling. The albino was banded with no. 39-311616 and released near its nest and parents. Its constant chirping brought several other robins to the trees nearby but none of them went directly to the albino. It was observed for a short time wandering over the golf course until darkness set in. The following day Mr. Monical observed it on the grounds but he did not see it again after that time. To-date it has not yet returned. In 1945 and 1946 an albino robin had been observed nesting on the grounds of the country club. The fledgling captured and banded in 1948 may possibly be a descendent from that one.—Ralph W. Dexter, Department of Biology, Kent State University, Kent, Ohio.

RECENT LITERATURE

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BANDING

1. Colorado's Mallards Come Home. Johnson A. Neff. 1948. *Colorado Conservation Comments*, 10(8): 5-8, 27-28. During 1944-1947, 6,626 Mallards, *Anas platyrhynchos* Linnaeus, were banded at Valmont Reservoir near Boulder; 562 (9.5 percent) recoveries have been recorded up to 23 April 1948. Of these recoveries 58 percent were in Colorado. Most of the recoveries were the result of shooting. During the same period, 3,391 Mallards were banded in the Sedgwick area in northeastern Colorado and western Nebraska; up to 23 April 1948, there have been 204 recoveries (60 percent). Birds banded in the Sedgwick area displayed a tendency towards an eastward shift. Of the 562 Mallards recovered from the Valmont Reservoir operations, 6.4 percent were recovered during the season of banding; 65.3 percent during the season following banding; 24.5 percent during the second season following banding; 3.3 percent during the third season following banding.—D.S.F.

2. Birds Banded in Foreign Countries and Recovered in Belgium. (Oiseaux bagués à l'étranger et retrouvés en Belgique.) Ch. Dupond. 1948. *Le Gerfaut*, 38(3): 117-130. This is a summary of 176 records of birds banded in