

report our observations on this species from the north shore of the Gulf of St. Lawrence where Osborne has, as keeper of the St. Mary Islands Sanctuary, made careful observations for many years. On this part of the coast between Harrington Harbor and Cape Whittle a few owls visit every fall. The presence of food in the form of sea birds every year and periodic concentrations of mice on the off shore islands some years (Johnson, 1937, *Canad. Field Nat.*, No. 9) appear to be attractive to owls which are seen about the landscape from the middle of November to about the first of February. The coastal strip of Hudsonian zone type of vegetation may have some consequence in terms of mouse populations. It certainly is an easier place for the owl to prey on the mouse population than the dense thickets of the more inland areas.

In the fall of 1945 the owls came to the Cape Whittle region early and in unusual numbers according to Osborne who observed them at the Sanctuary in November and later at Harrington Harbor. Several local fishermen who related their observations to Osborne give evidence to indicate that the migration was much the same for a considerable distance along that part of the coast. Several owls were shot for human consumption in the vicinity of Harrington Harbor. These were reported to be fat and very palatable. At Harrington Harbor unusual behavior of owls was noted. Several instances were reported of owls being seen in flight coming in from the direction of the sea. The local people believe that such birds attempted to cross the Gulf to Newfoundland but turned back, after a time, toward the mainland. Johnson suggests that these birds may have been on a hunting sortie from some point nearby along the mainland. It seems likely, however, that many owls did cross the Gulf at this point.

At Harrington Harbor owls were seen feeding on Dovekies. Evidences of the killing of Murres and Eiders were also reported. Such data conform with the nature of the supply of food available for daylight feeding. Analysis of pellets collected on the St. Mary Islands (Johnson '37.) and further data from pellets collected by Johnson and Osborne in 1938 (unpublished) shows that Dovekies and Black Guillemots are frequently taken by owls in this region in late fall; but that mice (*Microtus*) when present form the most numerous item of food. Pellets collected in 1938 which had been deposited in 1937 show a higher percentage of predation on birds. Some of these pellets contain remains of Fringillids.

During the last week of November Osborne traveled by train from Quebec City to Montreal. From the window he observed three owls in different localities flying low over marsh land. Perhaps this would indicate that the Owls were moving southward across the St. Lawrence over a wide front during the early part of the winter of 1945-46 and that food scarcity in route was not an impelling factor.—R. A. Johnson, 98 East Street, Oneonta, New York, and Fred Osborne, Harrington Harbor, Saguenay County, Quebec.

Robin Banding in California.—The freezing weather of January 1949 brought a "wave" of robins into Solano County (California) beginning January 10 and subsiding about January 25. My eight sparrow-type traps, which I had baited with pyracantha, cottoneaster and toyon berries, all had a real "workout." There were three robins at a time in my government sparrow trap, which was built to catch birds of English Sparrow size. They had to force their way into this trap as the opening is small. A Modesto maze trap which Mr. Irl Rogers made for small birds caught 12 robins, a 2 V-cell trap caught 23. I banded 184 robins during the month, the heaviest dates being 32 on the 16th and 34 on the 20th. In addition we were decidedly pleased to capture and band three Varied Thrushes from the heavy flight of *Turdus*. These less common, black-collared cousins of the robins are not often captured. If we had been prepared with the proper traps and if full time could have been devoted to banding we are sure we could have caught a thousand robins during the two-week period.—Emerson A. Stoner, Benicia, California.

The Adoption of a Fledgling Robin.—On June 1, 1948, a friend brought to me from another section of this city a fledgling Robin, *Turdus migratorius*. Though this is an unwise practice I was forced, however, to keep the bird instead of returning it to its original haunts. The bird seemed able to forage for itself

so it was banded and released. I was able to follow its wanderings and action for a few hours which led me to make an interesting observation. The fledgling constantly called while it was in the area which excited two pair of adult Robins which had nests containing young in the neighborhood. The adults scolded constantly when I was in view. One of the adults, a female, was carrying some food which she fed to the fledgling. The other pair of adults retired to their territory while the other pair remained in constant attendance to the fledgling, the female was observed to feed it several more times though this was not observed in the male. The fledgling readily consumed the food but did not make an effort to solicit such from the birds but instead showed very little interest in the adults, but constantly called and snapped its bill in the manner of the adults when they are disturbed. In the morning the fledgling moved on never to be observed again.—James Hodges, 324 West 31st Street, Davenport, Iowa.

"Marrying" Junco Returns Again.—General Notes in *Bird-Banding*, 19(1): 22, and 20(1): 50, reported an example of miscegenation in which the female *Junco hyemalis hyemalis* (Linn.) 44-53154 played the star role. On July 10, 1939, she was trapped for the fourth consecutive summer at exactly the same spot in Millbridge, Maine. Upon this occasion she was accompanied by a new mate, an unbanded male, which we trapped later and marked with band No. 46-2162. As if her history were not already sufficiently complex, 44-53154 was now found to be infected, apparently, with *epithelioma contagiosum*. Tumor-like enlargements on the toes of both of her feet suggested this condition. These growths were not observed on this bird's feet prior to her capture this summer.—C. Hapgood Parks, 99 Warrenton Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut.

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BANDING

(See also Numbers 9, 10, 12, 19, 20, and 21.)

1. Report of the Bird Ringing Committee; Progress for 1948. A. L. Thomson. 1949. *British Birds*, 42(6): 175-180. A total of 39,324 birds were ringed in 1948 in Great Britain, 20,911 of which were nestlings. A Red-backed Shrike, *Lanius collurio* Linnaeus, ringed as a nestling was found 100 miles to the east a little more than a month later. A Blackbird, *Turdus merula* Linnaeus, "ringed in Ross-shire in March was recovered in Norway (lat. 62°N.) in a subsequent January, suggesting that it had migrated to this country in one winter but not in the later one. Few of our Blackbirds are recovered abroad, but a nestling from Wimbledon was recovered in Brittany in January three and a half years later."—M. M. Nice.

2. Results of Bird-Banding Activities under the Auspices of the Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie te Leiden XXXIV. (Resultaten van het ringonderzoek betreffende de vogeltrek, ingesteld door het Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie te Leiden, XXXIV (1947).) G. A. Brouwer and N. Croin Michielsen. 1949. *Limosa*, 22(3): 295-317. Species banded in greatest numbers in 1947 were the Teal, *Anas crecca* Linnaeus 1853; Garganey, *Anas querquedula* Linnaeus 485; Great Tit, *Parus major* Linnaeus 857; Starling, *Sturnus vulgaris* Linnaeus 2058; Linnnet, *Carduelis cannabina* (Linnaeus) 371. Among the recoveries are those of 150 Teal; the recovery localities were mostly in the British Isles, Spain, France, the Netherlands, and Belgium. Two of the recovered Teal were six years old. A Stork, *Ciconia ciconia* (Linnaeus), banded 2 July 1934 at Zuidlaren was recovered in Saxony 28 August 1947. There are 32 records of recoveries of Lapwings, *Vanellus vanellus* (Linnaeus), mostly from Spain, France, Portugal, and the British Isles. There were four recoveries in the USSR of Lap-