

Accidental Trapping of a Pied-billed Grebe.—On September 17, 1952, a Pied-billed Grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*) was discovered on the earth floor of an 18" x 20" wooden box, set 20" deep in the ground, and used to protect our water pipe connections from freezing. This Grebe was evidently from a migrating flock that passed over on the night of September 13; but how the bird ever landed in our yard, and why it should creep under the lid of the box (which was raised only about 3"), and drop into the nearly two-foot hole, is unanswerable.

The altitude here is approximately 2000 ft., and we are practically surrounded by higher mountains of the George Washington National Forest. We do not seem to be on the direct flyway of any of the migrants, but we do get some of the outer-edge stragglers. We have on two previous occasions picked up a dead Pied-billed Grebe in the yard that may have mistaken, in moonlight, the wet dew on the roofs for open water; but this could hardly explain the presence of the grebe we discovered in the box, for there was little, if any, moon on September 13.

Our dog seemed to know of its existence, and tried for three days to make us aware of the visitor by repeatedly going to the box and sniffing, but we assumed he was only fooling with the scent of a big toad that frequents the area of the back steps, and we paid no attention to the dog's actions. A peculiar noise, similar to that made by a bird batting against a window, was heard occasionally in the general location of the box, but it was not constant, and when one attempted to investigate it abruptly ceased.

On Wednesday morning (September 17—and three days after the noise was first heard), I again heard the sound and definitely located it as being in the sunken box. When I raised the lid to take out what I was sure would be Mr. Toad, I saw a Pied-billed Grebe sitting on the ground near the side of the box—apparently, with its beak, it had been using the wood as a sounding board. The bird made no effort to get away when I reached down and lifted it out, nor did it appear to be emaciated, or to have any injury.

Band No. 498878 was placed on its right leg, and when released in the water of our Alum Branch it dove and swam as if quite uninjured. The Branch has several good pools, and plenty of small fish, and the Grebe was seen in the water on September 18, and again on September 19, but not seen since that date.—Laura Bailey, Rockbridge Alum Springs Biological Laboratory, Route 2, Goshen, Va.

RECENT LITERATURE

BANDING

(See also Number 57)

1. The Göteborg Natural History Museum's Banding of Migratory Birds from 1949 to 1951. (Göteborgs Naturhistoriska Museums Ringmärkningar av Flyttfåglar under 1949-1951.) Viking Fontaine. 1952. Särtryck ur Göteborgs Musei Årstryck 1951-1952. 92 pp., 1 map. This detailed summary of banding operations in Sweden during 1949, 1950, and 1951 shows that 193 co-operators banded a total of 29,816 birds, but that the trend is regrettably downward, 13,405 in 1949, 10,507 in 1950, 5,904 in 1951, which we hope by now has been reversed. The grand totals of the Swedish program from its start in 1911 through 1951 are 233,895 birds of 222 species banded, from which 6,485 returns and recoveries of 142 species have been received. The raw data are given for the 958 returns and recoveries of 98 species received during the last three years. The publication of such data, making them available to any and all who may have use for them, is always desirable and welcome. Unfortunately most of these lack age and sex, which curtails their usefulness somewhat for many purposes.

Most of the records are "returns" in our restricted sense, retaken at or near the place of banding, but there are many interesting recoveries, most of them from continental Europe south of Sweden, in Denmark, Germany, Holland, Belgium, and France. A significantly large number are reported from the British Isles, some from as far south as the Iberian Peninsula, Italy, Arabia, and Africa, a few east to Poland and Czechoslovakia, but a lone Mallard is the only bird known to have reached nearby Russia. One wonders how this bird came to be reported,