

report is any criterion, their efforts have been of negative value. The work is so full of errors and inaccuracies that one wonders whether even the specific identification of the birds they have banded can be trusted, to say nothing of the aging and sexing.

By its very incompetence this report emphasises the great need for a thorough, impartial, unbiased analysis of the immense amount of raw data now available from the waterfowl banding in North America, preferably by disinterested scientists not employed either by a hunting or "conservation" organization or by a government agency. The purpose must be to show coldly and factually what these records, the only reliable statistical evidence in existence on the subject, show about the status of our vanishing waterfowl, and then to present these truths in clear, simple language that both hunters and politicians can understand.

The comment has often been made that birds know nothing about political boundaries. It is also evident from a perusal of the tables and maps in this publication, faulty and inadequate though they be, that the ducks have not been told about the flyways they are to follow. Convenient as the flyway concept may be for the administration of waterfowl hunting, it is far from being demonstrated to be a natural phenomenon.—O. L. Austin, Jr.

NOTES AND NEWS

An old contributor returns to *Bird-Banding* in this issue, with Mrs. Day's paper on the Veery. As Mrs. Richard B. Harding (Katherine C.), she made 13 contributions to our predecessor, the *Bulletin of the Northeastern Bird-Banding Association*, in addition to two more written jointly with Mr. Harding. She also contributed to volumes I and III of *Bird-Banding* itself.

Preliminary indications are that several thousand Pine Siskins were banded in the northeast during the past winter, as well as substantial numbers of other winter finches. The banding done during this flight may have carried the fiscal year's total of Passerines banded to the highest level since the war.

While we are glad to be able to include a sizable number of general notes in this issue, we are prepared to enlarge this section even more if material is available. We are still able to allow very prompt publication of papers accepted for *Bird-Banding*, and the present supply is barely adequate. While a number of papers of major interest are in prospect, papers actually on hand as the July issue goes to press will not suffice to fill the October issue.

The General Secretary of the 11th International Ornithological Congress has sent the following preliminary announcement:

The 11th International Ornithological Congress, presided over by Sir Landsborough Thomson, London, will be held in Basel (Switzerland) from May 29th to June 5th, 1954.

During the week of the Congress, five days will be devoted to meetings and two to excursions. Before and after the Congress (May 25-28 and June 7-19) excursions will be arranged to enable members to become acquainted with the Swiss avifauna, especially of the Alps and Lower Alps. The Congress fee is 30 Swiss francs.

The prospectus, containing registration form and detailed information, will be distributed this summer. Applications to attend, and to contribute scientific papers, should be sent in before February 28, 1954, and addressed to:

XI International Ornithological Congress,
Zoological Garden, Basel, Switzerland

which is at disposal for any inquiries needed.

Basel, June 1953

Errata: In the April 1953 issue: (1) the maps on pages 46 and 47 were inadvertently interchanged and thus appeared over the wrong captions. The map on page 47 should have appeared on the previous page over the caption "Figure 2: Atlantic unit recoveries", and a corresponding correction should be made on page 46. (2) In the caption for Figure 7 on page 63, the reference should be to Figure 6 (immediately above) rather than to Figure 5.